

## FHWA Speed Management Program

### FHWA Speed Management Program Resources

#### Speed Limits

1. **USLIMITS2** - An expert system tool designed to aid practitioners in determining appropriate speed limit recommendations for specific segments of roads.  
<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/uslimits/>
2. **Methods and Practices for Setting Speed Limits: An Informational Report** – Developed in partnership with ITE, this report describes four primary practices and methodologies that are used in establishing speed limits (engineering approach, expert systems, optimization, and injury minimization). It also reviews the basic legalities of speed limits and presents several case studies for setting speed limits on a variety of roads.  
[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/fhwasal2004/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/fhwasal2004/)
3. **Speed Concepts: Informational Guide** – Provides information to help engineers, planners, and elected officials to better understand design speed and its implications in achieving desired operating speeds and setting rational speed limits.  
[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/fhwasal0001/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/fhwasal0001/)
4. **Guidelines for the Use of Variable Speed Limit Systems in Wet Weather** - Provides guidance on the use of variable speed limit (VSL) systems in wet weather at locations where the operating speed exceeds the design speed and the stopping distance exceeds the available sight distance. [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/fhwasal2022/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/fhwasal2022/)
5. **Relationship between Design Speed and Posted Speed** – A memorandum issued by FHWA Office of Program Administration that intended to clarify the Federal Highway Administration's position on the relationship between design speed and posted speed in response to several questions received.  
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/design/standards/151007.cfm>

#### Technical Assistance and Training

1. **Technical assistance to State and locals for developing and implementing speed management plans** - Work directly with State/Locals to identify speeding safety problems and locations, strategies and countermeasures, and implementation plan.  
[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/docs/fhwa\\_speedmanagementpackage\\_final.pdf](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/docs/fhwa_speedmanagementpackage_final.pdf)
2. **FHWA Speed Management Training Course** - Course number: FHWA-NHI-380116  
[https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/course-search?tab=0&key=FHWA-NHI-380116&sf=0&course\\_no=380116](https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/course-search?tab=0&key=FHWA-NHI-380116&sf=0&course_no=380116)
3. **Joint FHWA and NHTSA speed management training course** - <https://tsi-dot.csod.com/GlobalSearch/search.aspx?s=1&q=1#q=speed%20management&s=1&a=>
4. **USLIMITS2 technical assistance and training** – Provides free technical assistance and training webinar upon request via [help@uslimits.org](mailto:help@uslimits.org).

## Speed Management Countermeasures

1. **Self-Enforcing Roadways: A Guidance Report** – Provides information on methods that may produce self-enforcing, or self-explaining, roadways during the geometric design process. <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/17098/17098.pdf>
2. **Traffic Calming ePrimer** – Developed in partnership with ITE, this resource presents a thorough review of current traffic calming practice and contains the information needed to understand this complex field. [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic\\_calm.cfm](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm)
3. **Speed Management ePrimer for Rural Transition Zones and Town Centers** - Developed in partnership with ITE, a resource that presents a review of speeding-related safety issues facing rural communities, along with the basic elements required for data collection, information processing, and countermeasure selection by rural transportation professionals and community decision-makers. [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/rural\\_transition\\_speed\\_zones.cfm](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/rural_transition_speed_zones.cfm)
4. **Engineering Speed Management Countermeasures: Desktop Reference of Potential Effectiveness in Reducing Crashes** [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/eng\\_count/2014/reducing\\_crashes.cfm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/eng_count/2014/reducing_crashes.cfm)
5. **Engineering Speed Management Countermeasures: Desktop Reference of Potential Effectiveness in Reducing Speed** [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref\\_mats/eng\\_count/2014/reducing\\_speed.cfm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ref_mats/eng_count/2014/reducing_speed.cfm)

## FHWA On-going Speed Management Projects

- **Speed Management Noteworthy Practices** – In partnership with ITE, this project will identify, develop, and promote speed management noteworthy practices carried out by States/locals for reducing speeding related fatalities. The noteworthy practices will cover all aspects of speed management strategies including engineering, enforcement, and education.
- **Jurisdiction-wide Speed Management Program Plan** –Subject matter experts work with States/cities to identify their priorities for their plan, develop a speed management data analysis package, host a workshop to gain additional insight and feedback, and develop their plan. Under the current round of the project contract, speed management program plans will be developed for 2 states and 1 city.

## On-going Speed Management Research

- **SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) by FHWA, AASHTO, and TRB**
  1. Michigan: “The Interrelationships between Speed Limits, Geometry, and Driver Behavior” (Iowa State University)
  2. Washington: “Influence of Roadway Design Features on Episodic Speeding in Washington State” (Battelle)
  3. Wyoming: “Driver Performance and Behavior in Adverse Weather Conditions: An Investigation Using the SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study” (University of Wyoming)
- **SHRP2 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) by FHWA**
  1. Development of Speed-Safety relationships (MRI Global)

### **NCHRP Speed Management Research (Ongoing)**

1. NCHRP Project 17-92 - Developing Safety Performance Functions for Rural Two-Lane Highways that Incorporate Speed Measures.
2. NCHRP project 17-76 -- Guidance for the Setting of Speed Limits
3. NCHRP project 17-79 -- Safety Effects of Raising Speed Limits to 75 mph and Higher
4. NCHRP 20-05/Topic 49-08 -- Pedestrian Safety Relative to Traffic Speed Management

### **NCHRP Speed Management Research (Upcoming)**

1. NCHRP 2020 Project 03-139 Next Generation of the USLIMITS2 Speed Limit Setting Expert System
2. NCHRP 2020 Project 15-76 Designing for Target Speed

### **Additional Resources**

- GHSA Report: Speeding Away from Zero: Rethinking a Forgotten Traffic Safety Challenge  
<https://www.ghsa.org/resources/Speeding19>
- NTSB Report: Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles  
<https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>