

# Work Zone Speed Management Resources

This first email focuses on Work Zone Speed Management. There are a variety of methods and technologies that can be used to help manage traffic speed in work zones, including the use of law enforcement officers, traveler information and warnings, traffic control devices (e.g., rumble strips), reduced speed limits and double fines, automated enforcement, speed advisory systems, and variable speed limit (VSL) systems. The links below provide a sample of available work zone speed management resources. Additional resources can be found on the FHWA Work Zone Web Site on the [Work Zone Speed Management](#) page and the [Speed Management Systems](#) section of the ITS and Technology page.

## Automated Enforcement

- [Automated Speed Enforcement in Work Zones](#) – Describes how Illinois DOT, Washington State DOT, and Maryland State Highway Administration are using automated speed enforcement technology to electronically identify vehicles travelling at a speed above a predefined threshold and provide a citation via mail.
- [Automated Speed Photo Enforcement Effects on Speeds in Work Zones](#) – Presents details on speed photo enforcement implementation and its effectiveness at the point it was stationed and at a downstream location in a work zone.
- [Research Pays Off: Automated Speed Enforcement Slows Down Drivers in Work Zones](#) – Article describing the success of Illinois's speed-radar photo enforcement (SPE) program.

## Law Enforcement

- [Guidelines on Use of Law Enforcement in Work Zones](#) - Provides guidance for determining when and how to use enforcement in work zones and how a work zone enforcement program can be funded and managed. Also addresses regulatory language regarding law enforcement use in work zones, different enforcement philosophies and strategies, officer deployment within the work zone, enforcement considerations during work zone planning and design, and administrative considerations.
- [Traffic Enforcement Strategies for Work Zones](#) - [NCHRP report 746](#) and [research document](#) present guidance and background research on the safe and effective deployment of traffic enforcement strategies in work zones on high-speed highways. The guide covers planning, design, and operation for the strategies, and administrative issues.
- [Traffic Law Enforcement in Work Zones: Phase II Research](#) – Presents guidelines that can be used by construction, design, maintenance, and traffic engineers to incorporate traffic enforcement into work zones.
- [Training on Safe and Effective Use of Law Enforcement Personnel in Work Zones](#)
  - [Interactive, free, web-based course from NHI](#) that provides law enforcement agencies and personnel with practices and procedures to improve safety in work zones. The course covers the role of law enforcement officers in work zones; proper practices and procedures; the parts of a typical work zone; and standards and guidelines related to temporary traffic control in work zones.
  - [Course Materials](#) - PowerPoint Training Modules, Instructor's Manual, Participant Guide, and a Pocket Guide. These materials can be modified as needed to enable agencies to provide the training in a classroom setting.

## Speed Advisory and Variable Speed Limit Systems

- [Development and Evaluation of Speed-Activated Sign to Reduce Speeds in Work Zones](#) – Describes a study done in South Carolina from which researchers recommended that speed-activated signs be used in short-term work zones.
- [Development and Field Evaluation of Variable Advisory Speed Limit System for Work Zones](#) – Describes the evaluation of a proposed system to reduce traffic conflicts at work zones that uses variable advisory speed limits that are determined with a two-stage speed reduction scheme.
- [Safe Speeds in Work Zones](#) - Describes work zone speed display technologies that can be used to help manage safe speeds and provides example applications.

- [Work Zone Variable Speed Limit Systems: Effectiveness and System Design Issues](#) - Evaluates the potential of VSL systems to enhance mobility and safety in heavily traveled work zones. The results indicated that VSL could create substantial improvements in traffic operations if the demand did not drastically exceed capacity.

### Setting Speed Limits

- [Expert System for Recommending Speed Limits in Speed Zones](#) - Explores the development of a knowledge-based expert system decision-support tool to help identify speed limits in speed zones on highways and local roads that are considered credible and enforceable.
- [Guidelines on Managing Speeds in Work Zones](#) - Summarizes available guidance on setting speed limits and managing speeds in work zones. Addresses how slower speeds can improve safety, how drivers are told to slow down, when slower speeds are important, changing speeds to match conditions, voluntary speed reductions, law enforcement, a decision tool for managing speeds, and an example approach to managing speeds in work zones.
- [Roadway Safety+ Training Program](#) – Includes a module on work zone speed management, which has an interactive quiz presenting 7 scenarios to match with voluntary speed reductions in MPH and a decision tool for managing speeds in work zones.

### Speed Management

- [FHWA Work Zone Speed Management Webpage](#) – Information on automated enforcement, law enforcement in work zones, speed advisory systems, variable speed limit systems, and guidance on setting safe speed limits in work zones.
- [Speed Management Information Resources](#) – Searchable database that provides a collection of resources from a variety of sources dealing with speed management. Allows searching by keyword or browsing by title, author, or topic.
- [Synthesis of Practices for Work Zone Speed Management](#) – Reviews work zone speed management efforts in Canada and the United States and provides an overview of technologies and methods for managing speed in work zones, with topics ranging from posted speed limit reductions and narrowing lanes to portable variable message signs and enforcement.
- [Work Zone Speed Management Systems](#) – Information about how technology (e.g., VSL systems, automated enforcement, radar, and speed advisory systems) can be used to help manage and enforce speed limits in work zones.

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<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones>