

Birmingham Regional Safety Coalition

Example Strategies & Countermeasures for Reducing Speeding Related Crashes

Speeding Laws

- **Lower local speed limit laws-** Speed limits are only one part of the system that attempts to control driving speeds. Without broad public acceptance and active enforcement they have little effect. With public acceptance and enforcement, lower speed limits can reduce travel speeds and casualties.
- **Lower statewide speeding laws-** Lower statewide speeding laws are likely not feasible.

Enforcement

- **Automated enforcement-** Speed cameras, also called photo radar or automated speed enforcement, record a vehicle's speed using radar or other instrumentation and taking a photograph of the vehicle when it exceeds a threshold limit.
- **High visibility enforcement-** High-visibility enforcement campaigns have been used to deter aggressive driving and speeding through both specific and general deterrence. In the high-visibility enforcement model, law enforcement targets selected high-crash or high-violation geographical areas using either expanded regular patrols or designated aggressive driving patrols.

Penalties and Adjudication

- **Penalty Types and Levels-** Penalty types and levels for speeding and the various traffic offenses included under aggressive driving are part of each State's overall driver control system. Penalties typically are low for first offenses that do not produce serious crashes and casualties and include small fines and perhaps a few demerit points assessed against the driver's license. When violations cause a crash producing serious injury or death, the offense may carry criminal charges and sanctions may be more severe.

Communications and Outreach

- **Communications and Outreach Supporting Enforcement-** Effective, high-visibility communications and outreach are an essential part of successful speed and aggressive-driving enforcement programs
- **Limitations on plea bargains-** Negotiated plea agreements are a necessary part of an effective and efficient court system. However, plea agreements may allow offenders to have their penalties reduced or eliminated, for example if a driver is allowed to avoid a driver's license suspension by attending Traffic Violator School.

Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update

Sources

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Safety Offices, Eight Edition, 2015*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation. 2015.
2. National Cooperative Highway Research Program. *NCHRP Report 622: Effectiveness of Behavioral Highway Safety Countermeasures*. NCHRP, Washington, D.C. 2008