

TARCOG Regional Safety Coalition

Example Strategies & Countermeasures for Reducing Aggressive Driving Related Crashes

Laws

- **Local aggressive driving laws-** Aggressive driving actions are covered by specific traffic laws, such as the laws regarding speeding, improper lane changes, and following too closely, or by general laws, such as those that target reckless driving. In general, States provide for increased penalties for repeat offenders and for violations with serious consequences.

Enforcement

- **Automated enforcement-** Automated enforcement is used in some jurisdictions to reduce red-light running and speeding. At intersections with traffic lights, automated cameras take photographs of vehicles entering the intersection on a red light. Citations are sent to the vehicle's registered owner.
- **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.

Sources

Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Safety Offices, Seventh Edition, 2010*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation. 2013.
2. National Cooperative Highway Research Program. *NCHRP Report 622: Effectiveness of Behavioral Highway Safety Countermeasures*. NCHRP, Washington, D.C. 2008