Proven Safety Countermeasures FHWA Office of Safety 2012 Soft Reads for a Soft rates Indicator of Discontinuor of Discontinu

Introduction and Background

"While <u>States should still be considering the application of all of the</u> <u>countermeasures listed in the 2008 guidance</u>, this memo supersedes the previous quidance." – 2012 Countermeasure Guidance

- FHWA Issued Nine Proven Countermeasures Guidance in 2008.
- Many of those countermeasures have been widely applied.
- \bullet FHWA is updating our previous guidance.
- \bullet We are taking into consideration the latest safety research.

"...we encourage safety practitioners to consider a new set of countermeasures ...that are <u>research-proven</u>, <u>but not widely applied</u> on a national basis." – 2012 Countermeasure Guidance

Selection Process 2008 Countermeasures 1. Rumble Strips and Rumble Stripes* 2. Median Barriers 4. Left and Right Turn Lanes (Stop-Control) 2012 Countermeasures 5. Yellow Change Intervals 1. Roundabouts 6. Roadway Safety Audit** 2. Safety Edge 7. Roundabouts 3. Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in 8. Medians and Pedestrian Refuge Areas Urban and Suburban Areas 4. Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-lane Roads* 5. Corridor Access Management 6. Backplates and Retroreflective Borders 7. elineation and Friction for Horizontal Curve 9. "Road Diets" (Roadway Reconfiguration)

Data-Driven Safety Process

"...countermeasure selection should continue to be based on appropriate analytical techniques..."

Encourage States to Use Analytical Site-Specific Approaches (such as the Highway Safety Manual) and Systemic Planning Approaches to Make Safety **Investment Decisions**

- Conduct Appropriate Analysis of Quality Safety Data
- Use Evidence-Based Framework for Decision-Making
- Use the CMF Clearinghouse to Choose $\underline{\mathsf{Appropriate}}$ Countermeasures
- <u>Consider</u> the Nine Countermeasures as Viable Options

Addressing the Roadway

Departure Focus Area

- Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-Lane Roads
- Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves

Safety Edge_{SM}

Roadway Departure



Risk Management 1. Keep Vehicles on Roadway

- Reduce Likelihood of Crashes
- Minimize Severity

Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves

- Low-cost treatments
- Includes signs and markings that help drivers safely negotiate curves or...
- Additional pavement friction to address geometric deficiencies



Safety Impacts:

- Vary based on application
- Up to 43% reduction of all fatal crashes

Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-Lane Roads

- Alerts drivers with sound and vibration when vehicles cross the edge or center line.
- Reduction of Severe Crashes:
 - Rural Edge, Run Off Road: 36%
 - Rural Center, Head-ons: 44%
 - Urban Center, Head-ons: 64%



Safety Edge_{SM}

- Consolidating the pavement edge into 30° shape during paving to provide stability for vehicles recovering from a roadway departure
- 6% reduction of total crashes
- B/C range: 4 to 63
- Implement as a standard practice for paving and resurfacing projects



Addressing the Intersection Focus Area:

- Roundabouts
- Corridor Access Management
- Backplates with Retroreflective Borders
- "Road Diet" (Roadway Reconfiguration)
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

"There are approximately 300,000 signalized intersections in the United States. About 1/3 of all intersection fatalities occur at these locations; resulting in roughly 2,300 people killed in a single year."





Roundabouts

- Modern designs are safer and more efficient than old circles and rotaries
- Can reduce crashes resulting in injury or fatality by nearly 80%¹
- Should be considered as part of corridor or intersection improvement projects
- Highly adaptable, proven in both low-speed urban and high-speed rural environments

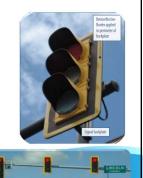




Backplates with Retroreflective Borders

- Retroreflective strip added around the border of a signal backplate
- Documented 15% reduction in crashes of all types and severities at urban signalized intersections¹
- Consider as standard treatment for new and modernized signal projects, or as a systemic retrofit safety improvement

1. CMF Clearinghouse



Corridor Access Management

- Involves the design, implementation and control of entry and exit points along a roadway
- Reducing access points along urban/suburban corridor can reduce injury and fatal crashes by about 25%¹
- May be considered as a component of general corridor improvements or as its own project





1. AASHTO Highway Safety Manual, Chapter 14

Addressing the Pedestrian Safety Focus Area Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon "Road Diet" (Roadway Reconfiguration) Pedestrian Safety Facts: Pedestrians represent over 12% of Highway Fatalities. Midblock locations account for over 70% of pedestrian fatalities. Midblock locations account for over 70% of pedestrian fatalities. Over 80% of pedestrian fatalities hit by vehicles traveling at 40 mph or faster will die, while less than 10% die when hit at 20 mph or less.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

- Pedestrian-activated beacon located on the roadside or on mast arms over major approaches to an intersection.
- Follow guidance in MUTCD Chapter 4F.



Safety results: 69% reduction in pedestrian crashes 29% reduction in total crashes

Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas

- Median is between opposing lanes of traffic, excluding turn lanes (can be paint or concrete).
- Islands can be placed at intersections or midblock locations to separate crossing pedestrians from motor vehicles.
- Use in curbed sections of multilane roadways in urban areas with vehicular-pedestrian conflicts and med/high travel speeds.



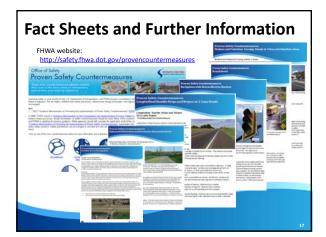
Safety results: 46% reduction in pedestrian crashes 39% reduction in total crashes

"Road Diet" (Roadway Reconfiguration)

- Conversion of four-lane undivided roadway into three lanes with two through-lanes and a center two way left turn.
- Best on Roadways with ADT of 20,000 or less.

Safety results: 29% reduction in all roadway crashes





Contacts for Further Information	
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Questions and Answers	
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