ODOT Speed Zones

Oregon Transportation Commission
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Presented by:
Doug Bish, ODOT Traffic Services Engineer
Paul Mather, ODOT Assistant Highway Administrator
How are Speeds set in Oregon?
Statutory versus designated speeds

Statutory

15 MPH  
20 MPH  
25 MPH

Need investigation to determine

Statutory

55 MPH  
65 MPH  
70 MPH

*Designated may be any speed or if roadway does not meet statutory requirements.
**Designated Speeds**
Requirements of the statutes

- Requires engineering investigation
- Investigation concludes current posted speed unsafe
Speed Zone Investigation

Collected, compiled, analyzed:

- Roadside character
- Traffic mix & volume
- Crash data
- Roadway widths
- Travel speeds
Current speed setting practices

• Relies on 85th percentile speeds.
• Post speeds typically below 85th percentile.
• Number of crashes, geometry and context.
• More flexibility in urban areas.
• Operating speeds typically 5 to 7 mph over posted.
National speed setting practices

Similar to Oregon practice:

• 85th percentile

• Other factors considered

• Rural vs. urban
How do we balance all components?

- Safety
- Compliance
- Users
- Objective means
- Local options
Recent and current efforts

Research and Surveys

- NC HRP 17-76/855
- NTSB report
- TTI and AAA survey
- MUTCD proposed changes
Options for setting speeds

Context NC HRP Report 855
## NC HRP 855—Road user priority based on context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context → Roadway ↓</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Rural Town</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Urban Core</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Arterial</td>
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**User Priority:**
- High 🚗 🚴 🚶
- Medium 🚗 | 🚴 | 🚶
- Low 🚗 | 🚴 | 🚶
How NCHRP 17-76 is developing guidance

- Speed,
- Crashes
- Roadway characteristics
- Context
- Vulnerable users

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Target Speed:
- Low < 30 mph
- Medium 30—45 mph
- High > 45 mph
How should we approach changing the way we set speeds?

- Seek OTC permission
- Form advisory group to recommend potential changes:
  - Portland Pilot
  - NCHRP 17-76
- Bring in national experts for advice
- Rulemaking process
Timelines

Develop Draft Rule
Feb - June 2019
- Feb 2019 Advisory Group
- April 2019 National Experts
- May 2019 Final Draft

Rulemaking Process
July-Dec 2019
- July 2019 Rule Process
- Aug 2019 File w/ SS
- Sept 2019 Public Meetings

OTC Early 2020?
- 2020 Approval
Questions?