



ODOT Speed Zones

Oregon Transportation Commission
January 17, 2019

Presented by:

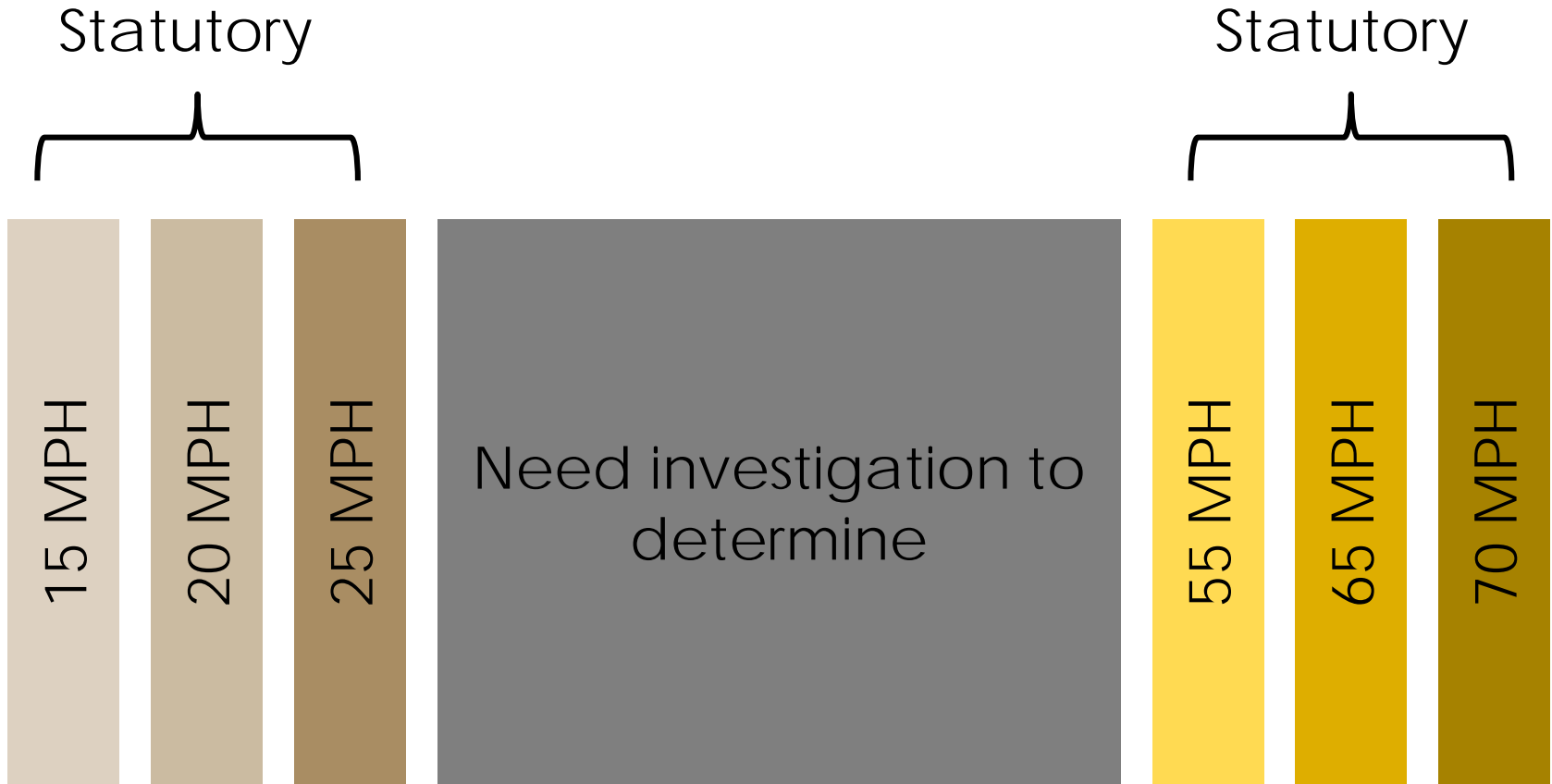
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How are Speeds set in Oregon?

Statutory versus designated speeds



*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

NCHRP 17-76/855

NTSB report

TTI and AAA survey

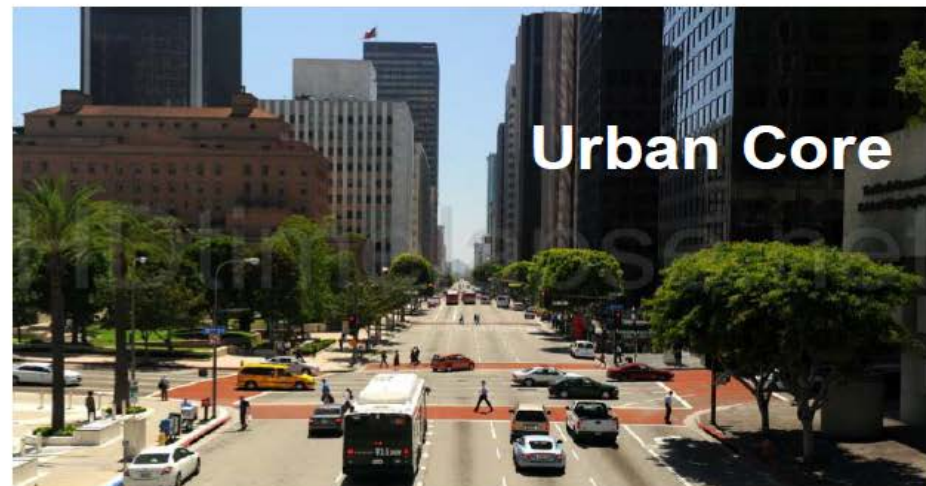
MUTCD proposed changes































































Options for setting speeds

Context NCHRP Report 855

Land use



NCHRP 855—Road user priority based on context

Context → Roadway ↓	Rural	Rural Town	Suburban	Urban	Urban Core
Principal Arterial	  	  	  	  	  
Minor Arterial	  	  	  	  	  
Collector	  	  	  	  	  
Local	  	  	  	  	  

User Priority:

High   

Medium   

Low   



How NCHRP 17-76 is developing guidance

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

Context → Roadway ↓	Rural	Rural Town	Suburban	Urban	Urban Core
Principal Arterial	High	Medium to Low	High to Medium	Medium to Low	Low
Minor Arterial	High	Medium to Low	Medium	Medium to Low	Low
Collector	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Local	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

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



✓ Feb 2019
Advisory Group

✓ April 2019
National Experts

✓ May 2019
Final Draft

✓ July 2019
Rule Process

✓ Aug 2019
File w/ SS

✓ Sept 2019
Public Meetings

✓ 2020
Approval





Questions?