VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT PILOT STUDY

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Introduction to VSL - History

Michigan (1960) – First VSL

United States
- Washington
- Michigan
- New Jersey
- Tennessee
- New Mexico

Europe
- Netherlands
- Germany
- Finland
- England

Flag Images: http://www.flags.net/
Simply put, it’s a **speed limit** that **changes** based on the conditions of the road including **construction**, **traffic**, and **weather**. Changes to the speed limit can occur in real time with modern systems.
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application - Construction

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale.

Status: No Work Present
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application – Construction

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale & missing required signage.

Status: Active Work Zone
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application – Congestion

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale.

Status: Free Flow
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application – Congestion

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale.

Status: Heavy Congestion
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application – Weather

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale.

Status: All Clear
Introduction to VSL - Concept

Application – Weather

Example for illustrative purposes. Not to scale.

Status: Weather Event
Greater Safety

Efficient Use of Highway Facilities

Increased Compliance

Congestion Relief

More Speed Deviations = More Risk
House Bill 2204- Pilot Study
TTI – Inter Agency Contract

Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Tasks

1. Site Selection Assistance
2. Implementation Plan
3. Develop Evaluation Plan
4. Equipment Assistance
5. Implementation Assistance
### Time Line

#### Tasks
1. Site Selection Assistance
2. Implementation Plan
3. Develop Evaluation Plan
4. Equipment Assistance
5. Implementation Assistance

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**2014**

- Contract Terminates
Time Line

Tasks

1. Site Selection Assistance
2. Implementation Plan
3. Develop Evaluation Plan
4. Equipment Assistance
5. Implementation Assistance

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Contract Terminates

Bill Expires

Feb. 1
Construction Variable Speed Limit

I-35 NB
Temple - Belton
Congestion Variable Speed Limit
Weather Variable Speed Limit

Ranger Hill I-20
Legislative bill requires an advance warning sign

Beacons will flash when VSL is in operation
Warning Sign & PCMS

Legislative bill requires an advance warning sign

Beacons will flash when VSL is in operation
Spacing & Transition

- ½ mile spacing, or up to 1 mile spacing

- Transitions no greater than 15 mph, except on downstream side of congested area
VSL Operation – (TM Center)

Steps of Operation

- VSL system pings the traffic management center if it detects need for VSL
- An operator has the ability to accept/deny the implementation of VSL
- System will notify operator when conditions have returned to normal
- Operator “acknowledges” deactivation. Important information is logged in the system, such as date, time, speeds that were set during VSL, etc.
VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT
PILOT STUDY

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