



Interstate Speed Limit Changes

Briefing for the Commonwealth Transportation Board

May 19, 2010
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Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits Background

HB 856 & SB 537 (2010) raise maximum allowable speed limit from 65 to 70 mph on:

- Interstates (1119 miles)**
- Separated reversible HOV lanes (35 miles)**
- Other limited access roadways (150 miles)**

The Commissioner has the statutory authority to act on the speed limit study recommendations.

Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits Implementation Plan Progress

Initial study candidates identified:

- **Interstates currently posted at 65 mph (741 miles), maximum speed permitted by law at this time**
- **Prioritized for study in three phases based on traffic volume, level of congestion & crash density**
 - Phase I (323 miles) No significant levels of crashes and congestion
 - Phase II (327 miles) Moderate crash levels and/or congestion
 - Phase III (93 miles) Significant incidence of crashes and/or congestion

Interstate 70 mph Speed Studies

Study sections & phasing for consideration of 70 mph speed limit

Legend

STUDY PHASE / PRIORITY

- PHASE I
- PHASE II
- PHASE III



Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits Implementation Plan Progress

- **On-call consultants contracted to conduct engineering studies**
 - **Work began April 12**
 - **Phase I studies completion by June 30**
 - **Phase II & III studies completion by October 30**
- **Met with Virginia State Police on May 5 to coordinate study effort & initiate enforcement input**
- **Letters sent to elected officials and local enforcement informing them of the ongoing studies and request their input.**
- **A web site is under development which will provide the public with information and a forum for comments.**

Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits Implementation Plan Progress

- **2 studies completed affecting portions of Interstate 95 and 295:**
 - **I-295 from the I-95 / I-295 interchange south of Petersburg to just south of I-64 east of Richmond (approximately 28 miles)**
 - Recommends a speed limit increase to 70 mph July 1
 - **I-95 from I-295 / I-95 interchange south of Petersburg to the North Carolina state line (approximately 46)**
 - Recommends \$9.3 million in safety improvements such as improving the shoulders, replacing the rumble strips, extending the guardrail and replacing the raised pavement markers, prior to raising the speed limit.
- **Recommendation to Commissioner on Phase I by June 15.**
- **All studies to be completed by October 30 2010.**



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