

Interstate Speed Limit Changes

Briefing for the Commonwealth Transportation Board

May 19, 2010 Connie Sorrell Chief of System Operations VDOT

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:

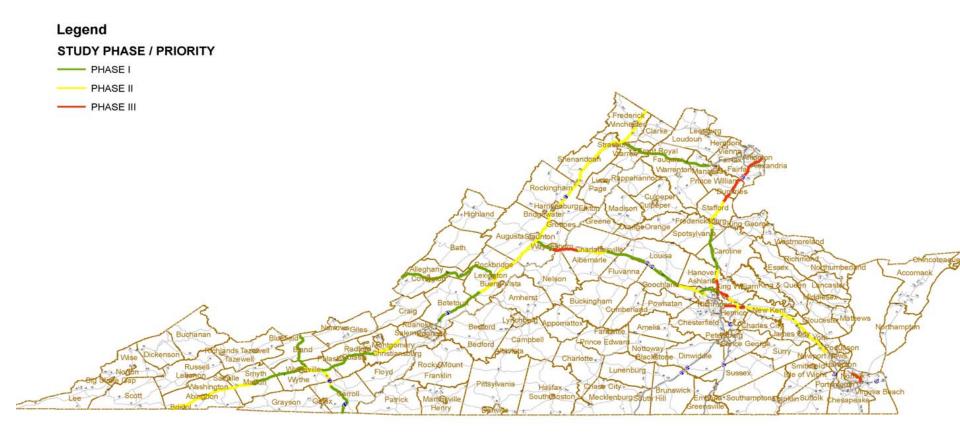
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- Interstates currently posted at 65 mph (741 miles), maximum speed permitted by law at this time
- Prioritized for study in three phases based on traffic volume, level of congestion & crash density
 - Phase I (323 miles) No significant levels of crashes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

VDOT

Interstate 70 mph Speed Studies

Study sections & phasing for consideration of 70 mph speed limit



Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits Implementation Plan Progress

- On-call consultants contracted to conduct engineering studies
 - Work began April 12

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- 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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