



70 MPH Speed Limit Initiative

October 20th, 2010

**Connie Sorrell
Chief of System Operations**

Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits – Status

HB 856 & SB 537 raised maximum allowable speed limit to 70 mph on interstates.

The Commissioner has the authority to approve or deny the speed limit study recommendations as per § 46.2-870.



1,119 miles of interstate

89 miles of interstate already at 70 mph (38 mi of I-85 on 9/25/07; 24 mi of I-85 on 9/16/08; 27 mi of I-295 on 07/01/10)

786 additional miles considered for increase

597 miles recommended to be posted at 70 mph

189 miles of those considered to remain 65 mph

Major urban areas excluded and where speed limit < 65 mph

Process Undertaken

Speed Studies:

Crash Patterns and History

Speed analysis

Traffic Operations

Land Use

Physical Conditions (field review included)

Central Office and Regional review of all studies

VSP and local law enforcement review and input

Short term improvements identified and planned

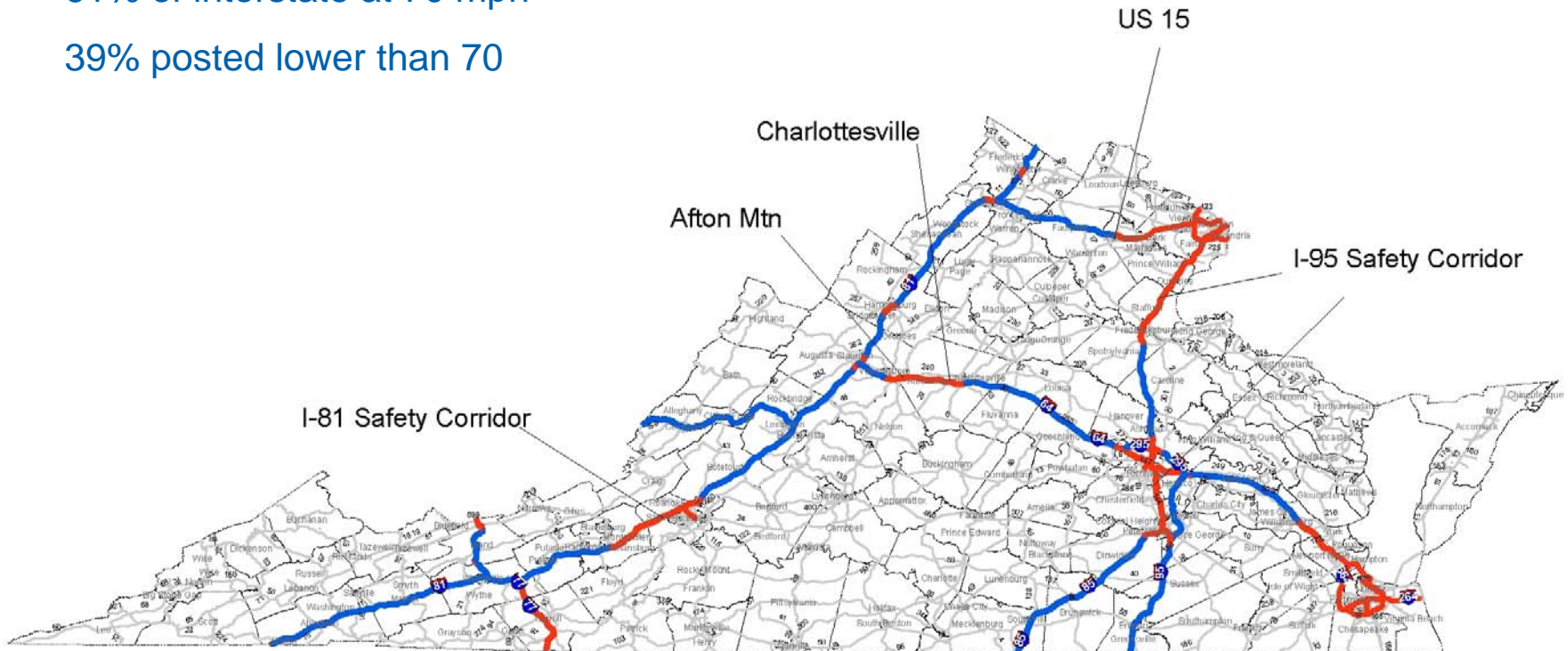
Final Recommendations for 70 MPH Speed Limit Increase

Status

- 55, 60, 65 mph segments - Not recommended for 70 mph speed limit
- Recommended for 70 mph speed limit
- Interstate
- State Route; U.S. Route
- Jurisdictions

61% of interstate at 70 mph

39% posted lower than 70



Results and Next Steps

Minor upgrades of guardrail, rumble strips and signage planned over the next 12-18 months

597 miles of rural interstate being raised to 70 mph, to bring total to 686 miles posted at 70 mph

Implementation coordinated with Virginia State Police

Signs Posted in 6-8 weeks

All signs in place by December 31, 2010

Questions?

