Evaluation of Work Zone Speed Limits

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Project Description:
This study reviewed the literature on speed limits in work zones, and objectively and subjectively examined speed characteristics and driver compliance with the posted speed limit. The literature reviewed for this study indicates that several factors affect speed limits, the evaluation of speed limits in work zones, law enforcement in work zones, and work zone safety. The objective evaluation part assessed the free flowing speeds of cars and trucks using statistical tests, studying the effects of lane closure, lane width reduction, and construction activity on vehicle speeds. The subjective evaluation relied on Department of Transportation and driver surveys. The former surveyed state departments of transportation to learn about common practices in work zones. The latter studied perceptions of drivers who had just passed through a work zone. Questions on the driver survey addressed safety, driver speed, compliance with the posted speed limit, and the effects of various factors on speed.

Publications: