

Small Improvement Schemes Advisory Leaflet

Traffic Management



Transporting Programme Team – September 2013

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Overview

Examples of Traffic Management measures:

Speed limit changes

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

Advisory 20mph speed limit when school lights flash

Parking restrictions

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Alterations to Speed Limits

The County Council is responsible for setting speed limits but enforcement is provided by the Police. The Department for Transport have published guidance for local authorities to ensure consistency throughout the country.

In determining the right speed for a road we need to consider the true traffic speed, accident history, traffic flow, adjoining junctions and building development, and local amenities. One of the key factors when determining a speed limit is the existing speed of traffic - setting speed limits too far below measured traffic speeds are very unlikely to be effective. Unrealistic speed limits are frequently abused and can prove very expensive and difficult for the Police to enforce.

Further information on speed limits can be found at:

www.somerset.gov.uk and searching for 'Apply for a new speed limit'

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Advisory 20mph when school lights show

‘Advisory 20mph speed limits when school lights show’ is a scheme which advises that a length of road in the vicinity of a school entrance should be driven at 20mph or less at school start and finish times. This is done by installing flashing lighting units (wig wags) at either end of the length of road with supplementary signs to signal an advisory lower speed limit.



Image courtesy of
Department of Transport

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VAS and SIDs

- Vehicle Activated Signs, (VAS), are road traffic signs that display a flashing symbol and/or words when activated by an approaching vehicle, often triggered by exceeding a pre-set speed limit. The message can depict a specific hazard (a bend, junction, crossroads etc.) or alert a motorist to the current speed limit.
- Permanent VAS are only considered as part of safety improvements, where there is evidence of an injury collision problem associated with inappropriate speed and not completely addressed by standard signing, lining or other measures.
- Temporary SID's are often used to address the problem of inappropriate speed (and not addressed by standard signing and lining measures).

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Alterations to Parking Restrictions

Parking on the highway can cause an inconvenience for other users, including emergency vehicles, as it may create a hazard, cause congestion or an obstruction.

Parking restrictions include yellow lines, limited waiting bays, bus bays, taxi bays, loading bays, no loadings areas, school "keep clear" markings, resident parking bays and on-street pay and display bays. A sign usually accompanies the road marking to inform you of the nature of the restriction.

Proposed restrictions require an associated Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which necessitates a statutory consultation period. Therefore to be successful it is important that the scheme has majority support of the community from the outset.

More information on parking can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/parking

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What to expect if traffic management measures are installed

- Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) are required to be advertised and have to go through a statutory consultation process.
- It takes approximately 4 months to implement a TRO but that can be significantly extended if there are objections to the proposals.
- Flashing signs if VAS, SIDs and school wig wag signs are installed.
- Signs and lines to highlight and reinforce the speed limit or parking restrictions are necessary to ensure visibility and that the restriction is enforceable.

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