3. Research and Demonstration

An effective and efficient program to address speeding as a highway safety issue requires better definition and understanding of speeding and its management. It is important to identify any specific characteristics or traits that can be used to target drivers and situations where there is increased risk. Detailed information on why these drivers speed can be used to develop more effective countermeasures. Voluntary compliance with speed limits can also be improved through on-going development of new speed management technologies.

Objectives:

- Better define the speed problem. Determine when, where, and under what conditions speeding leads to crashes; the demographics of drivers who speed in these situations; and why they speed.
- Develop advanced technologies to address speed including variable speed limit systems, vehicle-based radar warning systems, and less labor intensive methods of speed enforcement. Promising approaches should be tested and demonstrated.
- Examine the effect of fines and sanctions on habitual offenders and explore the use of alternative techniques to increase compliance.
- Examine the effect of corporate policies which may encourage speeding and explore appropriate sanctions.
- Analyze the effects of road design, the vehicle and the environment on safe operating speeds.
- Develop and study the effects of traffic calming techniques on speed and crashes.

For More Information:

Contact the Traffic Law Enforcement Division at (202) 366-4295.

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U.S. Department of Transportation
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Speeding is a significant threat to public safety and is responsible for over 1 million crashes each year in the United States. The speed limit is a critical factor in determining the likelihood of a crash. Exceeding the posted speed limit by just 15% increases the risk of a crash by 20%. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that speeding is responsible for over 1,000 deaths and 56,000 injuries each year. The cost of speeding-related crashes to society is over $40 billion annually. Speed management programs are designed to reduce speeding and improve road safety.