

Low-cost safety improvements for horizontal curves

Nearly 25 percent of fatal crashes occur at or near a horizontal curve.

Addressing safety problems at horizontal curves is one of 22 emphasis areas in AASHTO's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and is also a goal of FHWA's safety focus area related to road departures.

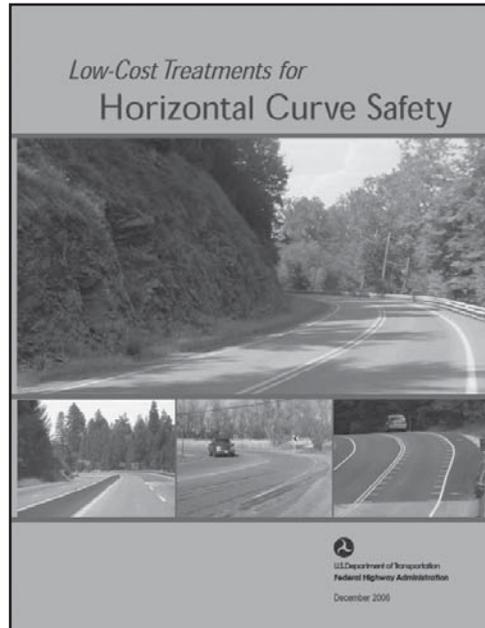
As a result of these emphases, the FHWA has recently developed a publication providing practical information on several low-cost treatments to address identified or potential safety problems at horizontal curves.

The 60-page booklet, *Low-Cost Treatments for Horizontal Curve Safety*, concisely describes each treatment, shows examples, suggests when the treatment might be applicable, provides design features, and includes information about potential safety effectiveness and costs, if available. It concludes by describing maintenance activities to maximize the duration of treatment effectiveness.

Suggested treatments include the following:

- Basic traffic signs and markings found in the MUTCD
- Enhanced traffic control devices
- Additional traffic control devices not found in the MUTCD
- Rumble strips
- Minor roadway improvements
- Innovative and experimental treatments

Free copies of the publication are available from the FHWA Report Center, 9701 Philadelphia Ct., Unit Q, Lanham,



MD 20706. Call 301-577-0906, and ask for report no. FHWA-SA-07-002.

The booklet is also online for download as a pdf: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/pubs/sa07002/index.htm. ■

Help with upgrading signs on high-speed curves

In Iowa, 39 percent of fatal crashes result from single vehicles running off roads, which often happens when drivers under-estimate curves.

A CTRE study found that 11 percent of fatalities on primary highway curves in Iowa occurred at just 30 curves.

Because of that finding, safety funds were awarded to supply oversized, fluorescent yellow chevron signs to those locations, with good results.

If you have a high-speed curve that has a documented history of multiple severe crashes, you may want to consider

upgrading the chevron signing.

For more information

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