WORK ZONE PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT (PSE) IN VIRGINIA

Lessons Learned While Developing a WZ PSE Program

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Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Legislation

• After years of work – bill was finally passed in 2019
  • Allowed the use of cameras in school zones AND work zones in VA
  • Administered by the VA State Police w/ fines going to pay for the program
  • Fines not to exceed $125 established for speeds > 12 MPH over the posted speed

• Governor added language requiring a second enactment of the bill in 2020 before signing it into law.
Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Legislation

Changes made during the second enactment of the bill in 2020:

- PSE can be administered by state or local law enforcement
- Speeding threshold lowered to 10 MPH over the posted speed limit
- The civil penalty was lowered from $125 to $100
- Penalties collected by the VSP shall be paid to the Literary Fund, local law enforcement paid to the locality
Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Legislation

Additional requirements of final legislation:

• A certificate sworn to or affirmed by the law enforcement officer who reviews the photo documentation of the offender as part of the documentation.

• A summons for speeding along with the photo is mailed to the owner, lessee, or renter of the vehicle.

• Allows for the owner, lessee, or renter of the vehicle to file an affidavit by mail with the clerk of the general district court if they want to rebut the summons

  • Must provide the name and address of the person who was driving the vehicle at the time of the offense.
Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Legislation

Additional requirements of final legislation:

• Allows a private vendor to:
  • Enter into an agreement with a law enforcement agency
  • Be compensated for providing a photo speed monitoring device and all related support services
  • But not swear to or affirm the speed violation.
• Compensation shall be based on the services provided
  • Not on the number of violations paid or monetary penalties imposed.
• All enforcement documentation shall remain private and shall be purged not later than 60 days after collection of any civil penalties.
• A conspicuous sign shall be placed within 1000 feet of any photo speed monitoring device indicating the use of the device.
Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Legislation

Other parts of the final legislation require:

- Any state or local law-enforcement agency that places and operates a photo speed monitoring device shall report the following to the VSP by Jan. 15 of each year:
  - Number of traffic violations prosecuted
  - Number of successful prosecutions
  - Total amount of monetary civil penalties collected.

- The Department of State Police shall aggregate such information and report it to the General Assembly by February 15 of each year.
Effort to create RFP for a pilot of WZ PSE did not start until Jan. 19, 2022 due to variety of factors:

- COVID
- Personnel shortage
- Other priorities

VSP/VDOT formed an evaluation team

- Develop the RFP, with information on how to implement and evaluate PSE on Interstate work zones.

The RFP was sent to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) for review in September.

- Comments received requiring changes to the RFP before issuance.
Current Status of PSE in Virginia

• Funding was not included in the legislation
  • VDOT, through its Innovation and Technology Transfer Funds, is providing $600,000 to fund the pilot.
• Until legislation is changed allowing the program to fund itself
  • Anticipating funding WZ PSE in the future through project construction funding.
• The RFP was advertised on February 23 with bids expected to be received on March 30
• Evaluation period for the Technical Review Team should take 30 to 45 days to complete.
• Initial field implementation - late fall of this year
The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:

- All requests for WZ PSE will go to the District Traffic Engineer
  - Independent review to determine the best project to implement PSE based on:
    - Crash, speed, and other data
    - Determine the best project to implement speed enforcement.
- Once approved, project personnel will coordinate with the WZ PSE Program Manager on a schedule for when PSE will be on a project.
- To meet the requirements in Section § 46.2-882.1, the WZ PSE shall only be used when workers are present.
How WZ PSE Will be Implemented in the Field

- The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:
  - The project contractor will order in advance the following sign:
  - This sign shall be mounted under the WZ posted speed limit sign entering onto the project.
How WZ PSE Will be Implemented in the Field

- The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:

Motorist approaching a project will see the following speed limit information

The Photo Enforced (R10-V18b) plaque may remain under the speed limit sign even when the WZ PSE is not active on a project.
How WZ PSE Will be Implemented in the Field

- The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:
  - A 48” by 54” Active Speed Limit Photo Enforced (R10-V18d) sign shall be installed between 500’ to a maximum of 1000 feet in advanced of the WZ PSE vehicle/camera by the WZ PSE contractor.
How WZ PSE Will be Implemented in the Field

The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:

- A PCMS shall be installed on the right shoulder by the project contractor
  - Indicate work is in progress
  - Indicate automated speed enforcement is activated prior to the ROAD WORK AHEAD signs.
- The message to be displayed shall be:
  - Screen One - PHOTO SPEED ENFORCED
  - Screen Two - SPEED LIMIT XX.
How WZ PSE Will be Implemented in the Field

• The following guidelines have been established for implementing WZ PSE on a project:
  • When WZ PSE is no longer in use
    • Active Speed Limit Photo Enforced (R10-V18d) sign shall be removed by the WZ PSE contractor
    • PCMS message advising of photo speed enforcement shall be turned off by the project contractor.
Lessons Learned So Far

• When establishing a WZ photo speed enforcement program:
  • Ensure dedicated funding of the program is in the legislation.
  • Have one agency oversee the program or one per jurisdiction or roadway functional class.
  • Currently in VA, both the VSP and local law enforcement agencies can implement WZ PSE
  • Local enforcement want to use it on interstate projects possibly for revenue generation.
  • Let safety guide the process not revenue!
  • Allow time for other agency reviews
    • Especially when it comes to the data element of the program
  • Be sure to let the public know why the program is being used.
  • Stay in front of the story, not behind defending actions taken.
Work Zone Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) in Virginia

Questions?