

PENNDOT'S SPEED LIMIT POLICY UPDATE

Mid-Colonial District ITE (MCDITE) – Session 6B

4/17/2026

WHAT WILL YOU HEAR TODAY

- Why update Pub 46 Section 11.3
- Overview of the Effort
 - Insights from best practices and visioning
- Pub 46 Section 11.3 Rewrite
 - Speed Limit Setting Process
 - USLIMITS2 Decision Support Tool
 - TE-101 Documentation
 - Integrating Speed Management Strategies
- District Pilots
- Next Steps
- Wrap-up



Source: PennDOT



WHY PENNDOT IS UPDATING THE POLICY

Challenges with current policy:

- Elements of the policy are **outdated** and **centered on the 85th percentile**
- Lack of statewide **consistency**
- **Limited connections** between Design & Traffic Engineering
- **VRU and multimodal** needs not consistently considered
- Limited guidance for **locals**

Opportunities identified in baseline review:

- Regulatory **flexibility**
- Strong desire for **context-sensitive**, self-enforcing roadways
- **SHSP** and **VRU Safety Assessment**
- **Speed Management Action Plan** not yet implemented
- Nationally accepted **decision-support tools** (like USLIMITS2) now improve consistency and better address urban/suburban needs



OVERVIEW OF THE EFFORT

- Establish Baseline Policies and Best Practices
- Clarify Desired Vision through Workshops
- Develop Recommendations
- Support Implementation and Policy Updates

We are here



INSIGHTS FROM BEST PRACTICES AND VISIONING

What national best practices show:

- Pair **target speeds** with speed management strategies
- Use a consistent tool like **USLIMITS2**
- Align policy with design guidance
- Make guidance clear and usable for municipalities
- Use pilots and collaboration to refine the approach

What PennDOT's visioning group agreed on:

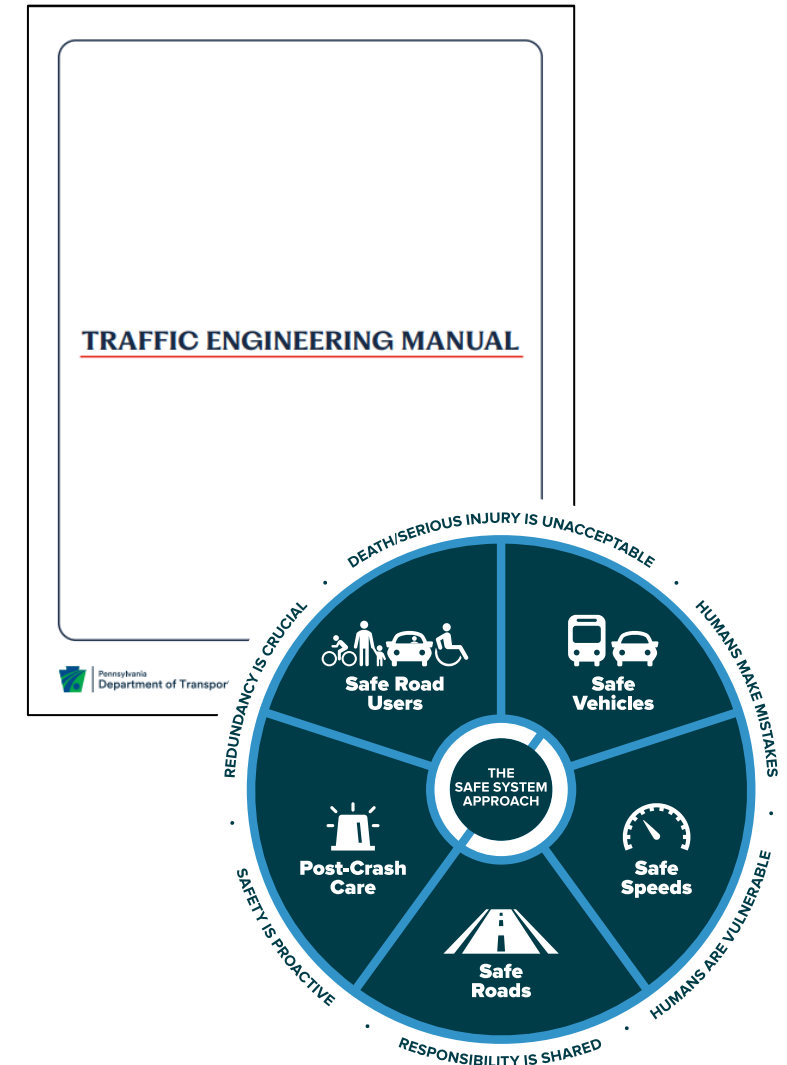
- A clear, flexible, **context-based process**
- Strengthen use of tools + documentation (TE-101, USLIMITS2)
- More context-sensitive design integration
- Need for training and local-facing materials
- Data-informed speed management going forward



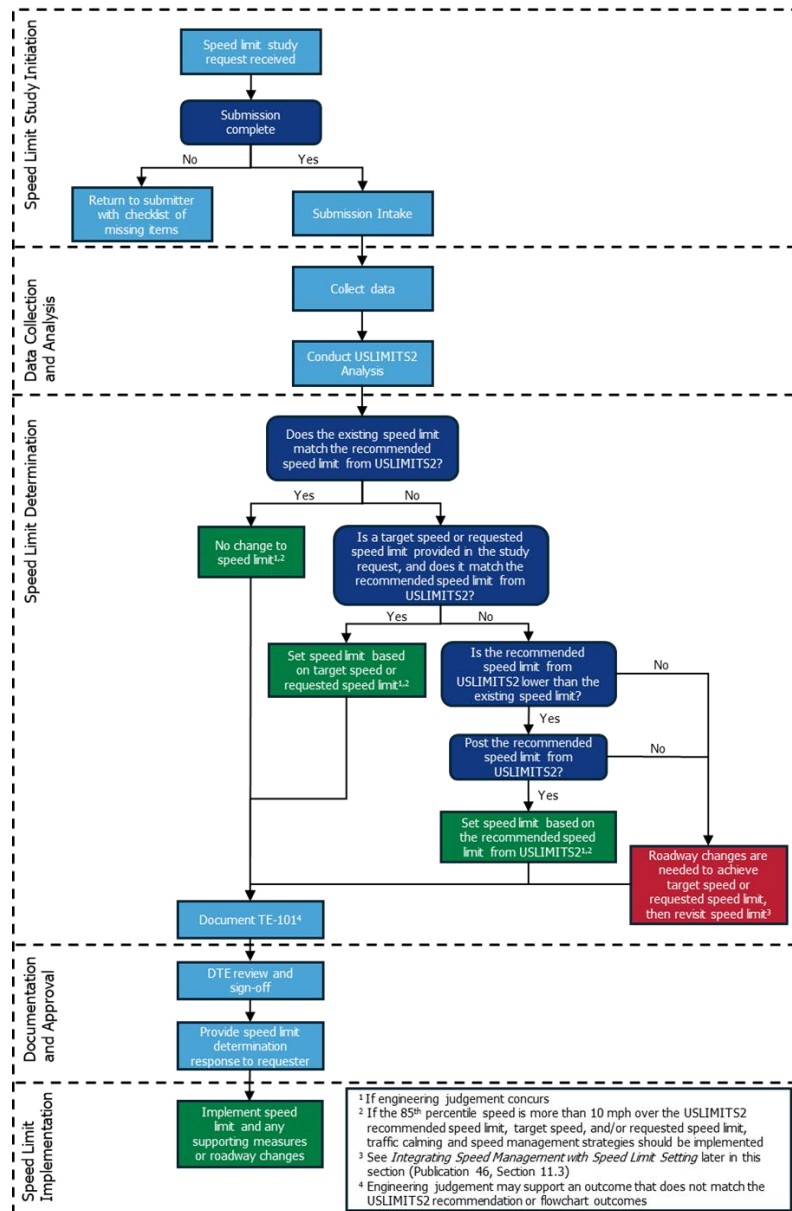
MODERNIZE PUB 46 SECTION 11.3

DRAFT – Pub 46, Section 11.3 Outline

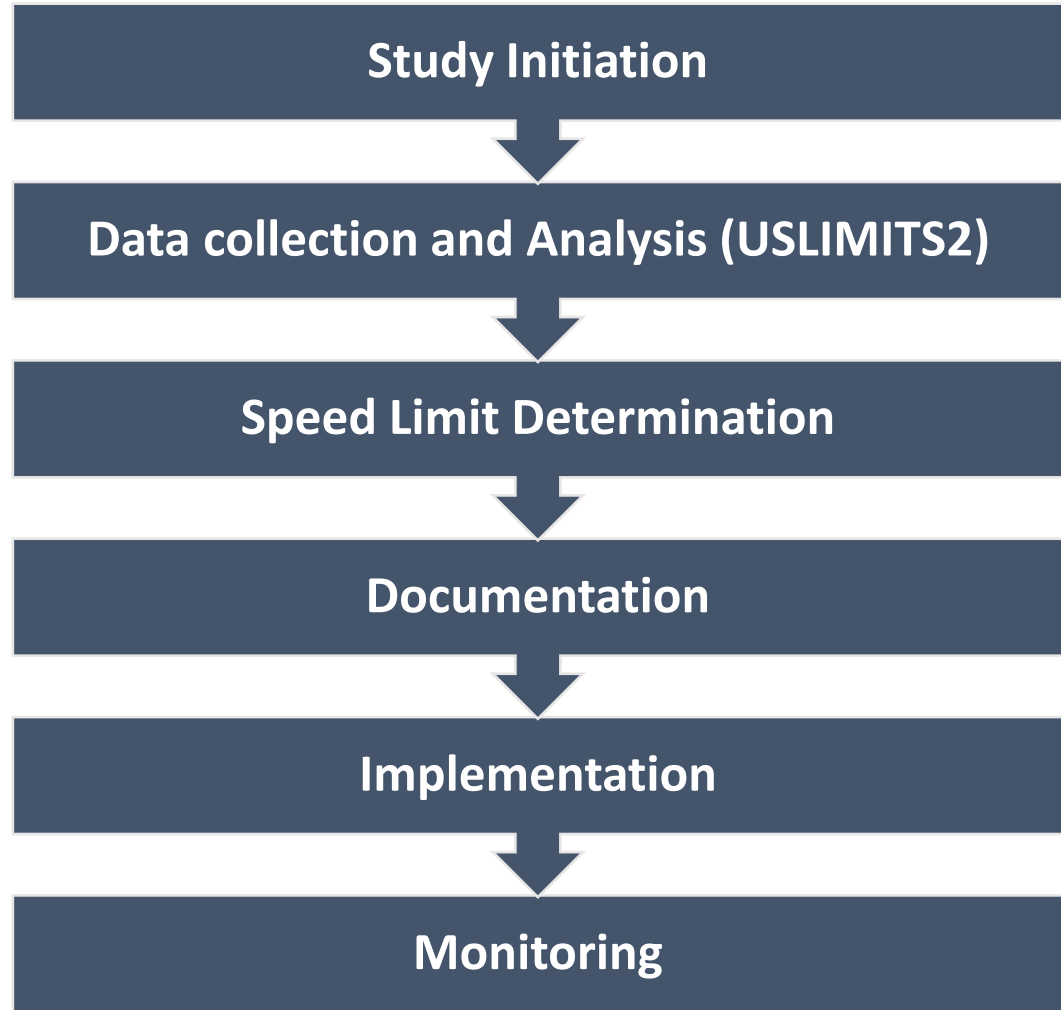
- References
- Scope and Purpose
- Statutory Speed Limits and Special Speed Zones
- Speed Limit Ranges by Context
- Non-Statutory Speed Limits
- Process for Establishing New Speed Limits
- Integrating Speed Management with Speed Limit Setting
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Implementation Support and Training
- Variable Speed Limits



NON-STATUTORY SPEED LIMIT SETTING PROCESS



The proposed process at a glance



USLIMITS2 – DECISION-SUPPORT TOOL

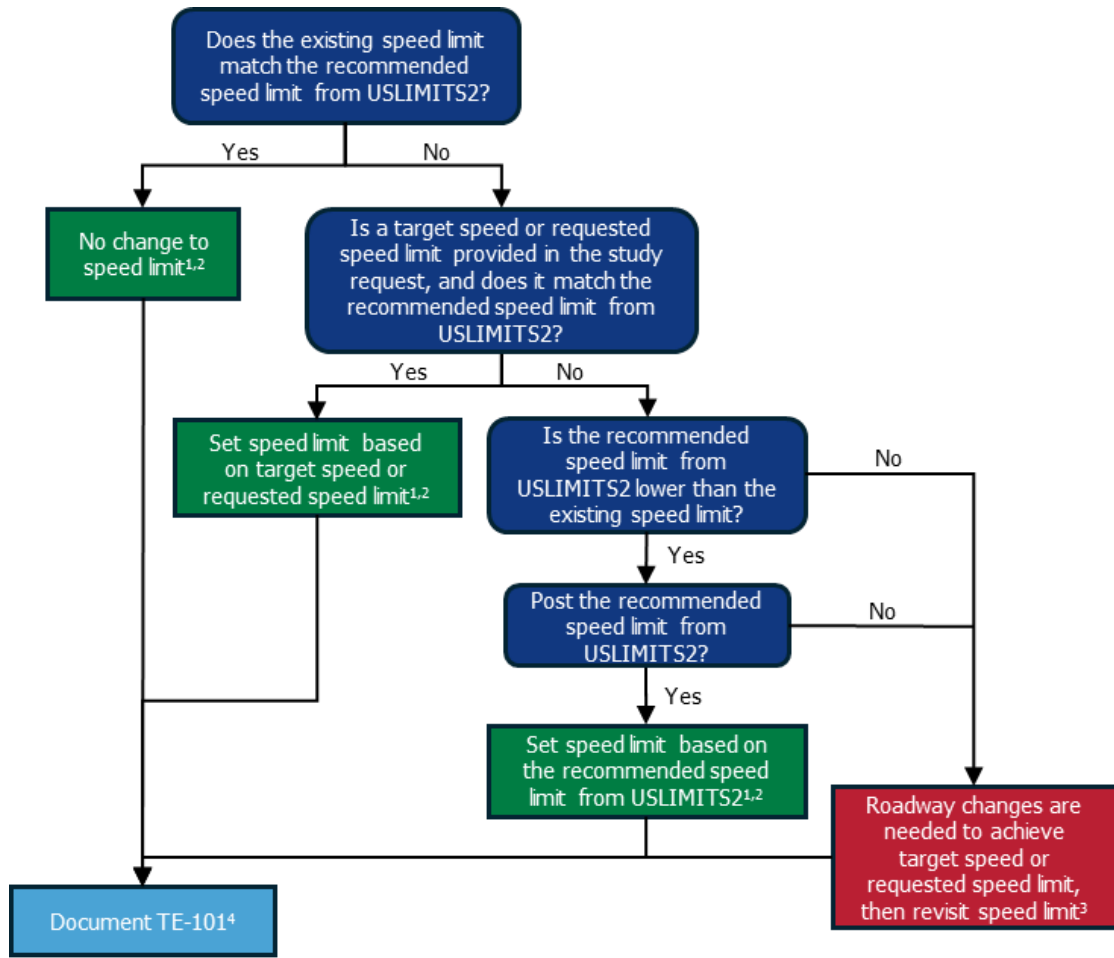
The screenshot displays the USLIMITS2 web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar for the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, including links for 'About', 'Programs', 'Resources', 'Briefing Room', 'Contact', and 'Search FHWA'. Below this is a 'Safety' section with sub-links for 'About', 'Office of Safety Programs', 'Initiatives', 'Resources', and 'Contact'. The main content area is titled 'USLIMITS2' and 'NEW PROJECT ENTRY'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with options like 'Create a New Project', 'Revise an Existing Project', 'User Guide', 'Decision Rules', 'NCHRP 3-67 Report', 'USLIMITS Flyer', 'Frequently Asked Questions', and 'Technical Support'. The 'Program Contact' section is highlighted, showing 'USLIMITS2' and the email 'help@uslimits.org'. The main form area contains a 'NEW PROJECT ENTRY' form with a 'HELP' link. The form includes a note: '**On all forms use the Tab key or mouse to navigate between the data input fields - do not use the Enter key.**' and a warning: 'Fields marked with an asterisk * are required. Select state, county and city first.' The form fields are: State * (dropdown), County * (dropdown), City/Area * (dropdown), Your Name * (text), Route/Street Name * (text), Study Segment Start (text), Study Segment End (text), New or Existing Route * (dropdown), Existing Speed Limit (mph) (text), Route Type * (dropdown), Project Date * (calendar), Project/File Name * (text), Project Number (text), and Project Description (text area). A 'Submit' button is at the bottom.

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/speed-management/uslimits2>

- FHWA-endorsed tool
- Incorporates MUTCD study factors
- Better addresses urban and suburban conditions
 - Pedestrian and bicyclist activity
 - Roadside development and access density
 - Transit stops, signals, and multimodal conflict points
 - Crash patterns and severity
- Provides consistent, transparent recommendations
- Output informs, but does not override, engineering judgment



SPEED LIMIT DETERMINATION




¹ If engineering judgement concurs
² If the 85th percentile speed is more than 10 mph over the USLIMITS2 recommended speed limit, target speed, and/or requested speed limit, traffic calming and speed management strategies should be implemented
³ See *Integrating Speed Management with Speed Limit Setting* later in this section (Publication 46, Section 11.3)
⁴ Engineering judgement may support an outcome that does not match the USLIMITS2 recommendation or flowchart outcomes



CONSISTENCY MEETS FLEXIBILITY

TE-101 (8-08)
**SPEED RESTRICTIONS
ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC STUDY**
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN BLUE OR BLACK INK



A - LOCATION INFORMATION

COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY	
SR#	SEGMENT	STREET NAME
SEGMENT/OFFSET	TO SEGMENT/OFFSET	<input type="checkbox"/> ASCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> DESCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH
OTHER LOCATION INFORMATION:		

B - REFERENCE INFORMATION

REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
Chapter 212	212.108
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
MUTCD	2B.13 and 2B.14
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
PUB 46	Chapter 11.3 and 11.4
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
Vehicle Code Title 75 Pa. C.S.	§3362, 3363, 3364 and 3365

C - STUDY ELEMENTS


FROM PUB 212 APPENDIX:

<input type="checkbox"/> Crash Analysis (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sight Distance (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Development (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Data (17)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Instructions (14)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volumes (20)	

D - ATTACHMENTS LISTING

Check those that apply and attach to this form in the order listed below:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 10-Day Response Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Crash Extract
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Letter or Memo Requesting Study	<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Crash Rate
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Location Map	<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Collision Diagram Plot
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Straight Line Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Speed Study
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Warrant Analysis
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Field View Drawing or Condition Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Multi-Way Stop or Truck Restriction Worksheet

TE-101 (8-28)

**SPEED LIMIT
ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC STUDY**

A - LOCATION INFORMATION

COUNTY	MUNICIPALITY	
SR#	SEGMENT	STREET NAME
SEGMENT/OFFSET	TO SEGMENT/OFFSET	<input type="checkbox"/> ASCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> DESCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH
OTHER LOCATION INFORMATION:		

B - REFERENCE INFORMATION

REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
Chapter 212	212.108
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
MUTCD	2B.21
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
Pub 46	11.3 and 2.4
REFERENCE	SECTION(S)
Vehicle Code Title 75 Pa.C.S.	§3361, 3362, 3363, 3368 and 6109

C - STUDY ELEMENTS

FROM PUB 212 APPENDIX:

<input type="checkbox"/> Crash Analysis (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sight Distance (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Geometric Review (8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Data (18)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Development (12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volumes (16)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Obstructions (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Type of Highway (20)	

D - ATTACHMENTS LISTING

FROM PUB 212 APPENDIX:

<input type="checkbox"/> 10-Day Response Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> USLIMITS2 Output	<input type="checkbox"/> TE-XXX (Speed Limit Study Request) Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter or Memo Requesting Study	<input type="checkbox"/> Crash Data/Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Location Map	<input type="checkbox"/> Collision Diagram	
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Line Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Study	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Pedestrian Volumes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Line Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Limit	

Engineering judgement synthesizes all data and information

Updated TE-101 Form

- Adds context, pedestrian and bicyclist activity, crash, and all USLIMITS2 inputs

Supports defensibility and transparency in decision-making



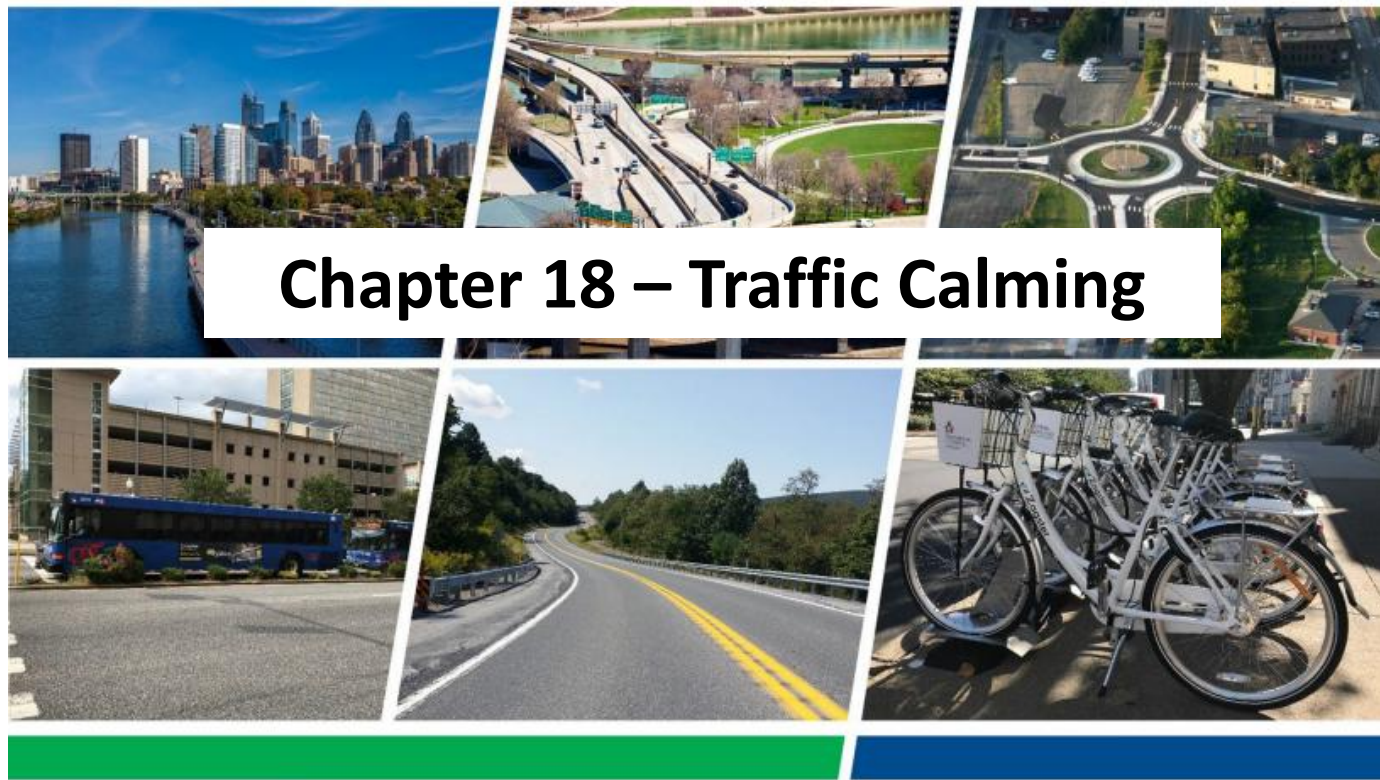
INTEGRATING SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

DESIGN MANUAL PART 2

CONTEXTUAL ROADWAY DESIGN

PUBLICATION 13

Chapter 18 – Traffic Calming



PENNSYLVANIA Strategic Highway Safety Plan
2022

Highway Safety Program Guide

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways
11th Edition

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

December 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

PUB 638 (7-24)

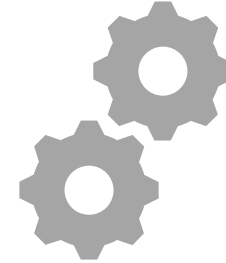


WHAT'S CHANGING IN THE STUDY PROCESS



Old Approach

- Heavy reliance on 85th percentile
- Limited multimodal considerations
- Inconsistent documentation
- Minimal linkage to design



Proposed Approach

- Includes 50th percentile, 85th percentile, 10-mph pace and safe-running
- Requires MUTCD context factors
- Decision-support tool and updated TE-101 form for consistency
- Integration with design + speed management



ADVANCING PENNDOT'S SPEED MANAGEMENT VISION



Incorporates multimodal activity as a study factor (MUTCD)



Introduces a target speed approach to speed limit setting



Considers context explicitly



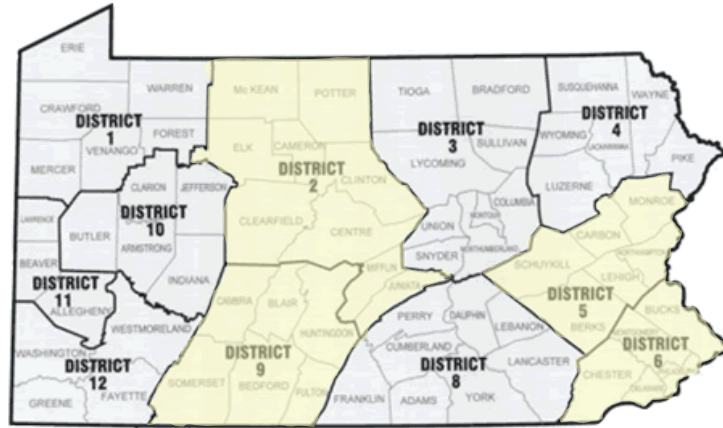
Encourages pairing speed limit changes with design changes and prioritizes strategies to reduce severe injury risk



Strengthens alignment with Safe System Approach principles



DISTRICT PILOTS



- Districts 2, 5, 6, and 9
- Pilot draft policy and updated TE-101

A screenshot of a form titled "SPEED LIMIT ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC STUDY" from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The form is divided into sections: A. LOCATION INFORMATION, B. REFERENCE INFORMATION, C. STUDY ELEMENTS, and D. ATTACHMENTS LISTING. A large green checkmark is overlaid on the form, indicating successful completion or validation.

A screenshot of the "USLIMITS2 NEW PROJECT ENTRY" form. The form contains various input fields for project details, including State, County, City/Town, Year, Route Name, Study Segment Start/End, Existing Speed Limit, Route Type, Project Date, Project/File Name, Project Number, and Project Description. A large green checkmark is overlaid on the form, indicating successful completion or validation.

- Replicated existing study conclusions
- USLIMITS2 outputs aligned well with PennDOT practice across urban, suburban, and transition contexts
- District feedback improved TE-101 clarity



NEXT STEPS

- **Spring - Summer 2026**
 - Clearance Transmittal
 - FHWA approval
- **Summer - Fall 2026**
 - Outreach materials
 - Training resources
 - Leverage LTAP for municipal training and tech assists
 - Potential Workshop

UPDATES COMING SOON

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MANUAL

TR-101 (A-26)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		SPEED LIMIT ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC STUDY
A - LOCATION INFORMATION		
COUNTY		MUNICIPALITY
SR#	SEGMENT	STREET NAME
SEGMENT OFFSET	TO SEGMENT OFFSET	<input type="checkbox"/> ASCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> DESCENDING <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH
OTHER LOCATION INFORMATION:		
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REFERENCE	SECTION(S)	
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REFERENCE	SECTION(S)	
Vehicle Code Title 75 Pa. C.S.	§3361, 3362, 3363, 3368 and 6109	
C - STUDY ELEMENTS		
FROM PUBLIC AGENCY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Crash Analysis (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sight Distance (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Geometric Review (8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Data (16)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Development (12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volumes (18)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Obstructions (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Type of Highway (20)	
D - ATTACHMENTS LISTING		
FROM PUBLIC AGENCY		
<input type="checkbox"/> 15-Day Response Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> USLMTES2 Output	<input type="checkbox"/> TR-XXX (Speed Limit Study Request) Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Letter or Memo Requesting Study	<input type="checkbox"/> Crash Data/Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Location Map	<input type="checkbox"/> Corridor Diagram	
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Line Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Study	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Protection Volumes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Line Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Limit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field View Drawing or Condition Diagram	<input type="checkbox"/> Countermeasures/Mitigation Summary	
Confidential - Traffic Engineering and Safety Study		
This document is the property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation. The data and information contained herein are part of a traffic engineering and safety study. This safety study is only provided to those official agencies or persons who have responsibility in the highway transportation system and may only be used by such agencies or persons for traffic safety related planning or research. The document and information is confidential pursuant to 75 Pa. C. § 3744 and 35 U.S.C. 552 and may not be published, reproduced, reissued or discussed without the written permission of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.		



THANK YOU

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