

Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Proactive Systemic Initiatives for VDOT Owned/Maintained Roads:

Two-Lane Rural Roads



Example of a two-lane rural road in Virginia

VDOT works hard to provide a roadway network that operates safely, efficiently, and effectively. In 2019, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the deployment of highly effective, low-cost safety improvements to help reduce serious injury and fatal crashes across the Commonwealth. This data-driven strategy focuses on proactively targeting locations with higher crash risk. The goal is not to wait for crashes to occur before we proactively treat high-risk locations on the roadway network!

VDOT maintains more than 56,600 centerline-miles of two-lane roads of which 75% (43,900 miles) are rural roads. About 17,500 crashes occur annually on those roads, and crash numbers are increasing. The most common crash type on two-lane rural roads is the run-off-the-road (roadway departure) crash type, which represent about 58% of total crashes. Since these crashes are widely distributed across the state, deploying low-cost, highly effective safety treatments is paramount to reducing the number of crashes on these roads.¹

This initiative includes a variety of low-cost measures that are effective in reducing roadway departure crashes. Eligible treatments include signs, pavement markings, and transverse rumble strips warning drivers of upcoming curves; enhanced delineation of the roadway and topography through regular width or wide centerline and/or edgeline pavement markings and retroreflective elements (such strips attached to sign posts, markers on guardrails, or ground-mounted delineators along the edge of the roadway); warnings for drivers who may be leaving the travel lane through centerline and/or edgeline rumble strips/strips; and removing roadside hazards through selective tree removal. Pre-identified, higher-risk two-lane rural roads are eligible for these treatments.

For any questions on inquiries on VHSIP, please email: hsiprogram@vdot.virginia.gov

Sign up for VHSIP email notifications to be notified of revised guidance, program updates, training opportunities, and more! Listserv Sign-up link: <http://eepurl.com/hY1DSj>

¹ VTRC Report 21-R10. Available: https://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/21-R10.pdf