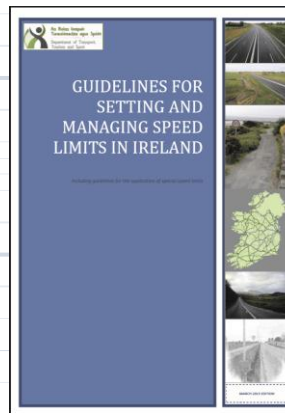




# GUIDELINES FOR SETTING AND MANAGING SPEED LIMITS IN IRELAND

*'The Guidelines'*, Speed Limits and Speed Management Strategies

# 'THE GUIDELINES'



Lead  
Action  
8

**Update and Strengthen Guidelines and Circulars**

*That the Guidelines on Speed Limits be updated to: -*

- *Improve clarity on Speed Limits for road types (Chapters 1 & 7)*
- *Address Speed Limits for approaches to towns (Chapter 7)*
- *Address Speed Limits for approaches to Schools (Chapter 7)*
- *Address the use of Variable Speed Limits (Chapter 7)*
- *Address the use of Driver Feedback Signs (Chapter 6)*
- *Require training in assessing Speed Limits (Seminars, workshops...)*

*That the Speed Assessment Framework should be monitored and strengthened where necessary. (Complete 2020)*

*That other existing Circulars on Speed Limits be updated or withdrawn to ensure consistent approach in accordance with the Guidelines for the Application of Speed Limits*

Lead DTTAS

Supporting -

Timeframe Q1 2014 to Q2 2014

Can this action be referred to or addressed (partially or fully) by review of the speed limit guidelines?

Yes. **New Guidelines ready for publication, March 2015**

January 2014:

Review of existing guidance commenced post-2013 high-level group review of the speed limits system

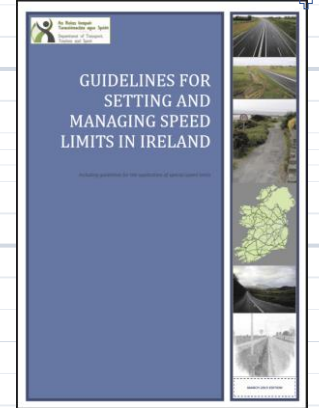
March 2015:

Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland published by the Minister for Transport

Substantial update and more prescriptive in all areas

Seminar held in Naas June 2015 and Workshops in 2015/2016

# 'THE GUIDELINES'



## CHAPTERS

1. Introduction
2. Structure of Speed Limits
3. Managing Speed Limits
4. The Making of Speed Limit Bye-laws
5. The Context for Speed Limits
6. Setting Speed Limits – General Guidance
7. Setting Speed Limits – Detailed Guidance
8. Temporary Speed Limits at Roadworks

## APPENDICES

- A. Speed Assessment Framework\*
- B. Speed Limit Signs
- C. Positioning of Speed Limit Signs
- D. MapRoad PMS and Speed Limits App
- E. Legislative Provisions
- F. Extracts from Standards

# SPEED LIMITS



## WHAT ARE THEY?

- ***A speed limit is the maximum speed at which vehicles may legally travel on a section of road between speed limit signs*** (*'The Guidelines', Page 26*)
- ***Signed speed limits set the maximum speed at which vehicles may legally travel on a section of road between speed limit signs, assuming the vehicles are not restricted in any way*** (*Rules of the Road*) ***(i.e. HGV's restricted to 80 km/h on all roads except motorways [90 km/h])***
- ***Speed Limit signs indicate the maximum speed at which a vehicle may travel on a particular road or stretch of road...."*** (*Rules of the Road*)
- ***One part of an overall speed management strategy.***

# SPEED LIMITS



NO TARGETS FOUND

## WHAT ARE THEY NOT?

- **Targets, speed limits are not targets** (*'The Guidelines', Page 26*)  
*(just because you can, doesn't mean you have to – also applies to setting the speed limit)*
- **Speed Limit signs indicate the maximum speed that may be travelled between speed limit signs, NOT the required speed for the road.** (*Rules of the Road*)
- **A silver bullet for road safety issues**
- **Tools to deal with isolated hazards** (*'The Guidelines', various references*)
- **A speed management strategy by themselves**

# SPEED LIMITS



## SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

A robust speed management strategy should be comprehensive and should address all factors that influence speeding;

- public awareness,
- user behaviour,
- road design,
- surrounding land use
- Is it a self-explaining road
- traffic conditions,
- posted speed limits
- enforcement.

# SPEED LIMITS



## SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

and should include the following attributes;

- Data collection:
  - collision data,
  - roadway data (design parameters),
  - road user data (aad, speed surveys)
- Applying road design, traffic operations, and safety measures
- Setting appropriate, rational, desirable, and safe speed limits
- Supportive enforcement efforts
- Effective use of media/publicity
- Co-operation of all traffic safety stakeholders
- Identify where speeds are too high for multi-modal transport

**NEXT** .....

*'The Guidelines' – An Overview*