Dynamic Speed Management Pilot
Providing safe speeds that are right for the road

VicRoads will run an Australian-first, innovative pilot to provide safe variable speed limits on roads with freeway management systems.

What is Dynamic Speed Management?
VicRoads is working with stakeholders to develop a system that will automatically vary the speed limit on roads with freeway management systems.

Speed limits will respond to the live road conditions including traffic volumes, weather and time of day.

In an innovative approach to better use the existing, state-of-the-art technology on some of our freeways, a tool has been developed to assess these road conditions and vary the speed using the overhead electronic signs.

In some cases, this may mean increasing the set speed limit from 80 km/h to 100 km/h where and when it is safe to do so.

This approach is an Australian-first to safely increase the speed when conditions allow, not just if there are road works or an incident, such as a collision.

Where will this be piloted?
From July 2016, an on-road pilot will be carried out on the Monash Freeway, between High Street and Glenferrie Road.

The speed limit in this location is currently 80 km/h due to sight distance issues in some short sections of the freeway.

Using CCTV cameras and road sensors, we will monitor the road and use this new system to assess road conditions and change the speed limit when safe.

For example, if there is light traffic and dry conditions at night, the speed limit could be increased to 100 km/h.

The six month pilot will run in three stages. During the first two months, the pilot will vary speed limits only at night.

The second stage will run at night and include other off-peak periods, such as the weekend, and the final stage will be a 24-hour pilot including peak periods.

The aim is to automate the system and assess where it could be rolled out on other roads with freeway management systems across Melbourne’s network.

Why are we doing this?
We are working to better use our existing freeway management technology to improve the safety of our roads and to help Victorians move.

We have heard feedback from our customers who have been frustrated at some lower speed limits on our freeways, particularly during off-peak times such as at night, when there are few cars on the roads.

While it’s important we all get to where we need to go as efficiently as possible, safety is always our priority.

The tool we have developed allows us to safely vary the speed limit to respond to the current road conditions including traffic volumes, weather and time of day.
What can I expect during the pilot?
During the pilot, please watch for the variable speed limits on the Monash Freeway between High Street and Glenferrie Road and adjust your speed accordingly.

Speed limit changes will be clearly displayed on the overhead electronic signs and on-road signage such as Variable Message Signs will also be used.

Safe drivers know to vary their speed to suit the road conditions. That means reducing speed when the weather is bad, road congestion is ahead or there’s another reason to travel under the stated speed limit to stay safe.

We often see signs that reduce speed limits for road works, congestion and for other safety reasons. Motorists see these signs and know that a hazard is ahead requiring them by law to drive slower.

But there’s also times when it might be possible for speeds to be safely increased from their regular limits. The aim of the Dynamic Speed Management Pilot is to raise the limit when road conditions safely allow drivers to travel faster.

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