# **Relating Available Stopping Sight Distance to Crash Risks and Other Insights from NCHRP 15-75**

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## **Overview**

- Introduction, Scope, and Review of Existing Guidance
- Summary of Findings
- Recommended Changes to 2018 AASHTO Green Book
- SSD vs. Crash Risk
- The Future
- Question-and-Answer

# **Review of Existing Guidance for Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)**



## **Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)**

- "**The minimum sight distance required for a driver to stop a vehicle after seeing an object in the roadway without hitting the object**"
- In general, enough distance should be provided so that a below average driver can stop.
- Greater lengths may be desirable.

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# **Why is SSD Important?**

- Highways must be designed so that there is adequate stopping sight distance
- SSD influences:
	- Lengths of crest vertical curves
	- Lengths of sag vertical curves
	- Overpass heights
	- Horizontal offset to objects along horizontal curves





### **Study Overview**

- The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* (i.e., the "Green Book") provides guidance for determining geometric design criteria of roadways, including stopping sight distance (SSD).
- SSD is influenced by many factors (e.g., perception reaction time, object height, driver's eye height). Changes in the driving population, vehicle fleet, and other areas motivate the need to critically assess this guidance, which was last updated in the 2001 edition of the Green Book.

# **Stopping Sight Distance (SSD)**



# **AASHTO SSD Model**

•  $SSD = d_R + d_B$ 

- $SSD = 1.47Vt + \frac{V^2}{\sqrt{a}}$  $30\left[\left(\frac{a}{32.2}\right) \pm G\right]$ 
	- Where:
		- $\blacksquare$   $V =$  design speed (mph)
	- $t =$  brake reaction time (s)
	- $\bullet$  a = deceleration rate (ft/s2)
	- $G =$  grade (ft/ft)

• Where:

- $SSD$  = stopping sight distance
- $d_R$  = reaction distance
- $d_B =$  braking distance



## **Evolution of SSD Model**

# **Summary of Brake Reaction Time Research**



# **SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study (NDS): Investigating Reaction Times and Deceleration Rates**

- Largest NDS to date:
	- 6 geographic areas
	- 3,400+ drivers/vehicles
	- 5,400,000+ trips
	- 1800+ crashes
	- ~7000 near-crashes





- Roadway Information Database (RID)
	- 12,500+ miles of roadway information
		- Horizontal and vertical alignment
		- Cross-sectional characteristics
		- Historical data from DOTs





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# **NDS Contextual Information**







Urban Core



# **NDS Reaction Time Data**



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#### **NDS Reaction Time Results**





# **Summary of Deceleration Rate Research**



## **NDS Deceleration Rate Data**



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#### **NDS Deceleration Rate Results**

### **Summary – SHRP 2 NDS Studies**

- Perception-reaction time
	- Mean and 90th-percentile reaction times were 1.3 s and 2.2 s, respectively.
- Deceleration rate
	- 10th-percentile and average deceleration rates were 13.4 ft/s<sup>2</sup> and 22.0 ft/s<sup>2</sup>, respectively.
	- Rates were lower in higher-speed contexts (e.g., rural areas), where the 10th-percentile and average deceleration rates were 11.8 ft/s<sup>2</sup> and 20.4 ft/s<sup>2</sup>, respectively.
	- Rates were higher in lower speed contexts (e.g., urban areas), where the 10th-percentile and average deceleration rates were 15.0 ft/s<sup>2</sup> and 22.8 ft/s<sup>2</sup>, respectively.



# **Evaluation of Characteristics of Vehicle Fleet**

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# **Data Collection – Driver Eye Height and Vehicle Headlight/Taillight Height**

- Vehicle measurements obtained through direct measurement of parked vehicles.
- Driver eye height estimated to center of vehicle headrest.
	- Accuracy of  $\sim$  0.1 ft



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### **Comparison with NCHRP Report 400 – Passenger Vehicles**







## **Summary of Parking Lot Studies**

- Driver eye heights
	- 90% driver eye heights exceed 3.75 ft for all passenger vehicles (slight increase compared to NCHRP 400)
	- No significant change in truck driver eye height
- Headlight height
	- No significant change compared to NCHRP 400
- Taillight height
	- Increased by 0.5 ft for passenger cars and multipurpose vehicles compared to NCHRP 400
	- However, no change is recommended to object height





# **Recommended Changes to 2018 AASHTO Green Book**



### **Guidelines Related to SSD**

- It is recommended to update the brake reaction time and deceleration rate values as follows:
	- Update brake reaction time from 2.5 s to 2.2 s
	- Deceleration rate to be updated to 11.8 ft/s<sup>2</sup> in rural contexts or high speed contexts (greater than 45 mph)
	- Deceleration rates to be updated to 15.0 ft/s<sup>2</sup> in urban and urban core context or low speed contexts (less than or equal to 45 mph)



## **Guidelines Related to SSD**

Proposed Table 3-1: Stopping Sight Distance on Level Roadways

#### Rural or High Speed Low Speed Urban





### **Guidelines Related to SSD**

- It is recommended to update the criteria for measuring SSD as follows:
	- Driver's eye height be increased from 3.50 ft to 3.75 ft.
	- No change in truck driver's eye height (7.6 ft).
	- Object height for SSD scenarios should remain the same (2 ft).
- These updates will also result in updating object height criteria for passing sight distance (PSD) and intersection sight distance to 3.75 ft



### **Guidelines Related to Crest Vertical Curves**

- Following updates to design parameters are recommended:
	- Eye height should be increased to 3.75 ft.
	- Object height should remain at 2.0 ft.
- These updates will result in revised design controls for crest vertical curves based on SSD and PSD, i.e., revised values for rate of vertical curvature  $(K_a)$ .



### **Guidelines Related to Sight Distance at Undercrossings**

- Following updates to design parameters are recommended:
	- Eye height should be changed to 7.6 ft for truck eye height
	- Object height should be increased to 3.0 ft for taillights of a vehicle





**But……**

# **What are the impacts of SSD on crash risk?**

### **The Relationship between SSD and Crash Risk**

- SSD is one of the ten controlling criteria for design and documentation of design exceptions. Applicable for horizontal and vertical alignments, except for sag vertical curves.
- The extant research literature has generally not shown that locations with insufficient SSD experience higher crash risks across most contexts.
- An exception is crest vertical curves on two-lane highways where a hidden curve, intersection, ramp, or driveway is present [Fambro et al., 1997; Harwood et al., 2014].
- Why?

### **Factor of Safety Inherent in SSD Model**

- Conservative design assumptions for each parameter (e.g., crest vertical curve case):
	- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile brake reaction time  $(2.5 s)$
	- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (design speed)
	- 10<sup>th</sup> percentile deceleration rate (11.2 ft/s<sup>2</sup>)
	- $\cdot$  10<sup>th</sup> percentile driver eye height (3.5 ft)
- Assuming independence, probability of conditions being met simultaneously  $= 0.0001$ .
- Probability of conditions being met AND a stopping scenario arising ≪ 0.0001.
- SSD has also been resource-intensive to measure historically.



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# **SSD – Safety Analysis**

- High-fidelity LiDAR data were utilized to assess relationship between available sight distance and crashes.
- Data from the Utah DOT were analyzed for freeways (80 mph speed limit) and two-lane highways (speed limits ranging from 30 mph to 65 mph).
	- Follow-up work in Michigan on twolane highways posted at 55 mph or 65 mph.









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# **Sample Output from LIDAR Tool**







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Stopping Sight Distance - By Classification



Obstacle types (count)

- ▼ / J SSD Position Classification
	- V V : MICHIGAN\_0032-1-LL-P\_SSD\_Position
		- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Vegetation [499]
		- $\sqrt{ }$  Vertical curvature [96]
		- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$   $\bullet$  Vehicles [135]
		- $\sqrt{ }$  Visible [477]
	- ▼ V .\* MICHIGAN\_0032-1-LL-N\_SSD\_Position
		- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Vegetation [632]
		- $\sqrt{ }$  Vertical curvature [79]
		- $\sqrt{ }$  Visible [498]

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# **SSD – Safety Analysis for Utah Data**







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# **Freeway (Utah)**













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# **SSD – Safety Analysis for Michigan Data**

- Analysis carried out for smaller road network.
- 21 miles of rural two-lane highways posted at 55/65 mph were identified
	- Frequent occurrence of curvature
	- Varying traffic volume and geometry



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# **Non-Freeway (Michigan)**

**The Future: What about Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Automated Driving Systems (ADS)?**



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#### **SAE J3016**<sup>"</sup>LEVELS OF DRIVING AUTOMATION



### **Analysis of Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) Data**

• Data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) were obtained for automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems.



#### **AEB Test Results**





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## **Integration of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) into New Vehicles**



Figure 7: Proportion of vehicle series with forward collision warning with autobrake, 2006-20 model years



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# **Fleet Penetration for Forward Collision Warning and Automatic Emergency Braking**



Figure 8 shows the percentage of registered vehicles by calendar year with either standard or optional front crash prevention. In 2006, front crash prevention had become standard on less than 1 percent and optional on less than 1 percent of registered vehicles By 2018, front crash prevention was standard or optional on 21 percent of registered vehicles, with about 10 percent of registered vehicles estimated to be equipped with the feature.



Figure 9 takes into account a voluntary commitment by many manufacturers to make front AEB standard on most of their vehicles by 2022. It shows the predicted registered vehicles by calendar year with front crash prevention. One prediction is for vehicles with front crash prevention available (standard or optional) and the other prediction is for vehicles equipped (standard or optionally equipped) with front crash prevention. It is predicted that 95 percent of registered vehicles will be equipped with the feature in 2043.

Figure 11: Percentage of registered vehicles with front automatic emergency



Figure 11 shows the percentage of registered vehicles by calendar year with either standard or optional front AEB. In 2012, AEB had become standard on less than 1 percent and optional on 1 percent of registered vehicles. By 2018, AEB was standard or optional on 13 percent of registered vehicles but estimated to be equipped only on 5 percent.

#### Figure 12: Predicted percentage of registered vehicles with front automatic emergency braking by calendar year



Figure 12 takes into account the 2022 voluntary commitment and shows the predicted registered vehicles by calendar year with front AEB. One prediction is for vehicles with AEB available (standard or optional) and the other prediction is for vehicles equipped (standard or optionally equipped) with AEB. It is predicted that 95 percent of registered vehicles will be equipped with AEB in 2044.

### **Areas for Future Research**

- Additional investigation into the relationship between crash risk and available stopping sight distance (e.g., crash modification functions).
- Probabilistic design in consideration of the distributions of reaction time, deceleration rate, and crash risk.
- Incorporation of the effects of automatic emergency braking systems into design criteria.



## **Thank You!**

# **Questions? Comments?**



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# **Michigan State University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering: An Overview**

#### **Presentation to National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) November 11, 2024**

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### **Introduction**

- MSU
	- founded in 1855, first land-grant institution
	- > 50,000 students
	- 5,300 faculty members and academic staff
	- 17 colleges, 200 degree programs
- College of Engineering
	- 6000 undergraduate, 1000 graduate students
	- 200 faculty members
	- 8 departments, 9 graduate/10 undergraduate degree programs



### **Introduction**

- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
	- BS, MS and PhD degrees in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering
	- 31 core faculty members
	- 600 undergraduate students
	- 130 graduate students
	- 43 undergraduate courses and 36 graduate courses offered
	- > 50 active research projects
	- > \$11 million annual research expenditures



#### **Civil and Environmental Engineering Faculty**

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### **Research Specialty Areas**

- Renewable Energy, Environmental Conservation, Recycled Materials
- Public Health, Water Quality, Microbiology, Environmental Chemistry
- Design, Construction, and Environmental Sustainability of Geotechnical and Pavement Systems
- Hydrology, Climate Change, and Water Resource Systems Modeling
- Structural Engineering, Mechanics, and Materials
- Transportation Safety, Human Factors, Travel Demand Modeling, Connected/Automated Vehicles, Sustainable Transportation



### **Graduate Degree Programs**

- MS-30 credits
	- Option A 24 course credits; 6 thesis credits
	- Option B 30 course credits
- PhD 36-48 credits
	- 12 course credits
	- 24-36 dissertation credits
- Dual PhD TBD

