

Radar Speed Sign

A Radar Speed Sign (RSS), also known as a driver feedback sign, is a traffic calming device designed to slow speeders down by alerting them of their actual travel speeds relative to the posted speed limit. RSS are being used across the country and around the world because they can be effective at reducing driving speeds.

Motorists respond to the flashing speed alert and slow down, thereby increasing compliance with the posted speed limit. Although the overall speed reductions are generally less than those resulting from physical traffic calming devices such as curb extensions, the RSS have the greatest effect on those drivers that are exceeding the posted speed. RSS are also effective at locations where the posted speed limit transitions from a higher speed to a lower speed.

Sometimes a radar speed sign is used in conjunction with physical traffic calming devices to increase their overall effectiveness.

The RSS can be solar powered, which allows the sign to be powered via solar energy with rechargeable batteries included for nighttime operation. Advanced RSS models include variable messages such as Slow Down, which can be programmed based on motorists' speeds. RSS also have a maximum speed cutoff feature that enables the sign to go blank when the user selected cutoff speed is reached in order to discourage excessive speeding.

The RSS can operate 24/7, or at timed intervals such as during the school start and end periods. The standard timers allow the sign to adjust for different school zone speed limits for specific times of the day and week.

Installation of the RSS follows the state guidelines as provided in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). There are also best practices to follow to ensure maximum effectiveness.

