

# SAFETY ZONE

## What is a Traffic Safety Corridor?

A safety corridor is a designated “**safety zone**”, similar to a school zone or a work zone. Candidate roads have a high rate or concentration of fatal and severe injury crashes. The purpose of designating a zone is to reduce the rate or concentration of fatal and severe injury crashes. There may be a need to target reckless, intimidating, and aggressive driving, as well as drunk driving (TRIAD). Head-on collisions, unsafe passing or unsafe speeds are some characteristics. Other factors include falling asleep, medications and driver inexperience.

Oregon built one of the earliest programs over ten years ago. They have successfully designated corridors, reduced crashes, and eventually decommissioned them. Success requires a concerted effort of increased education, enforcement, and engineering (Three E’s). Ohio has a model program for safety zone enforcement planning and daily duties.

Several other states have begun safety corridor programs. Typical elements include:

- Short two-lane, rural highway segments - 10 to 20 miles
- Focus on a few problematic highways
- Double fines and/or double points legislation
- Funding targeted, sustained highway patrol
- Expedite incident response
- Target *TRIAD* drivers, reduce driver frustration
- Quick, affordable road safety devices – special signs, centerline rumble strips
- Repeated media campaigns to educate drivers
- Investing in longer term, higher cost major road improvements
- Decommissioning to make efforts available elsewhere

Safety corridor efforts can last for years until major improvements can be put in place. Limited resources are focused on a few key roadways where the “three E’s” can be brought to bear. Best results are in areas where efforts reach familiar returning drivers.

# DOUBLE FINES