

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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Paper Details:

Presentation title:	Speed limit setting: A safe systems approach
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Overview of Presentation

The adoption of the safe systems approach through the Safer Journeys, New Zealand Road Safety Strategy 2010-2020, has meant greater attention is being paid to New Zealand's speed limits setting process. This paper focusses on two aspects of Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits (Rule 54001/2) and the criteria set out in Schedule 1: Speed Limits New Zealand (SLNZ) to see how these can be adapted to the safe systems approach. The first aspect is the lack of guidance around the three key elements used to determine the speed limit, operational speed data, the crash data and the calculated speed rating. The second aspect is the emphasis in the process on roadside development rating over roadway rating. Through a literature review, qualitative survey of transport professionals' and an analysis of the recent lowering of the speed limit tolerance during public holidays this paper concludes that overall the Rule and SLNZ process is adequate but there are elements that require clarification to align them with safer systems thinking. These include a more refined consideration the role of operational speed data and a move towards a more proactive approach to crash analysis drawing from KiwiRAP and greater consideration of road features and geometry in the rating process.