

Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Proactive Systemic Initiatives for VDOT-Maintained Roads: Edgeline Rumble Strips/Stripes



Edgeline rumble strips.

VDOT works hard to provide a roadway network that operates safely, efficiently, and effectively. In 2019, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the deployment of highly effective, low-cost safety improvements to help reduce serious injury and fatal crashes across the Commonwealth. This data-driven strategy focuses on proactively targeting locations with higher crash risk. The goal is not to wait for crashes to occur before we proactively treat high-risk locations on the roadway network!

Edgeline rumble strips/stripes can reduce roadway departure crashes by alerting distracted, drowsy, or otherwise inattentive drivers who drift from their lane. Edgeline rumble strips are cylindrical grooved patterns milled into the shoulder pavement, on the edges of the roadway, that alert drivers through detectable noise and vibration when a vehicle's wheels leave the travel lane. Rumble stripes are similar with the exception that the pavement marking is installed within the groove. Many VDOT Districts are also installing "mumble" strips/stripes. When driven over, these provide the same noise and vibration inside the vehicle, while reducing the amount of external noise created.

To assist with implementation, the VHSIP team developed a comprehensive inventory that includes completed, ongoing/planned, and candidate locations for rumble strip/stripe installations across the Commonwealth.¹ To identify candidate locations, roadway segments were prioritized using VDOT's Roadway Departure plan, which identified segments based on number of roadway departure crashes and Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI). Through this initiative, Districts are validating the candidate locations and installing rumble strips where they are needed and feasible. Districts are also coordinating to provide consistency across jurisdictional boundaries.

For more information, refer to the memo on the rumble strip inventory and prioritized candidate implementation locations (IIM-LD-212.6 and IIM-TE-368.0).²

For any questions on inquiries on VHSIP, please email: hsiprogram@vdot.virginia.gov

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¹ <http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=886c47dc07c643cd9b4a690c44f90240>

² https://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/traffic_engineering/memos/TE-368_Rumble_Strips.pdf