



## **70 MPH Speed Limit Initiative**

**October 20th, 2010**

**Connie Sorrell  
Chief of System Operations**

## Interstate 70 MPH Speed Limits – Status

HB 856 & SB 537 raised maximum allowable speed limit to 70 mph on interstates.

The Commissioner has the authority to approve or deny the speed limit study recommendations as per § 46.2-870.



**1,119** miles of interstate

**89** miles of interstate already at 70 mph (*38 mi of I-85 on 9/25/07; 24 mi of I-85 on 9/16/08; 27 mi of I-295 on 07/01/10*)

**786** additional miles considered for increase

**597** miles recommended to be posted at 70 mph

**189** miles of those considered to remain 65 mph

*Major urban areas excluded and where speed limit < 65 mph*

## Process Undertaken

### Speed Studies:

Crash Patterns and History

Speed analysis

Traffic Operations

Land Use

Physical Conditions (field review included)

Central Office and Regional review of all studies

VSP and local law enforcement review and input

Short term improvements identified and planned

# Final Recommendations for 70 MPH Speed Limit Increase

## Status

- 55, 60, 65 mph segments - Not recommended for 70 mph speed limit
- Recommended for 70 mph speed limit
- Interstate
- State Route; U.S. Route
- Jurisdictions

61% of interstate at 70 mph

39% posted lower than 70



## **Results and Next Steps**

**Minor upgrades of guardrail, rumble strips and signage planned over the next 12-18 months**

**597 miles of rural interstate being raised to 70 mph, to bring total to 686 miles posted at 70 mph**

**Implementation coordinated with Virginia State Police**

**Signs Posted in 6-8 weeks**

**All signs in place by December 31, 2010**

# Questions?

