Effect of Cedar Rapids, IA Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras on Speeds along I-380

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For consideration for either poster or session presentation

Abstract

Interstate 380 is the main North-South thoroughfare in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. An approximate two mile stretch runs through the downtown area where speeds are reduced from 65 mph to 55 mph. This stretch is elevated and contains an S-curve which can cause difficult driving conditions in winter weather. Historically, the roadway has been plagued by safety problems. During 2009 approximately 3 fatal and 33 major injuries crashes occurred on this stretch. Strategies such as traditional enforcement have been ineffective in reducing speeds, so in August of 2010 the first of four automated enforcement speed cameras was installed in this segment.

A study is being conducted by the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) in the Institute for Transportation at ISU. The study is evaluating the effectiveness of the cameras throughout this corridor. Changes in speed metrics is the measure used to evaluate the treatment. Changes are being measured across from when the cameras were first in place and not issuing citations and periods after the cameras were in place. Speed metrics studied include the percentage exceeding the speed limit by 5, 10 and 15+ mph. Additionally changes in mean and 85\(^{th}\) percentile speeds will be studied. This presentation will present preliminary results and lessons learned.

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