

## **DYNAMIC SPEED DISPLAY DEVICES (DSDDs)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **What is a Dynamic Speed Display Device (DSDD)?**

A Dynamic Speed Display Device (DSDD) measures the speed of approaching vehicles and communicates the speed to drivers on a digital display. DSDDs are typically used to encourage drivers that are travelling faster than the speed limit to reduce their speed in neighborhoods and construction zones.

Both portable and fixed location DSDD units are available. Portable units are typically placed at a location on a roadway for a relatively short time period and then relocated to a different location. Fixed location units are used for the long-term display of vehicle speeds at a given location.

#### **What data is collected with DSDDs?**

Only spot speed data for vehicles approaching a DSDD unit is collected and stored in a Remote Data Management site (Cloud). Data such as license plate numbers or any other vehicular/personal property information is not collected by the device. The DSDD units use radar technology and there are no cameras or recording devices involved.

#### **What do we do with the DSDD data we collect?**

The spot speed data is used to analyze trends in vehicular speeds, generate custom reports which may be used either for on-going speed management and/or targeted speed enforcement activities.

#### **Are these devices effective?**

Numerous studies, including a study from Texas Transportation Institute based on locations within Texas, have shown that the DSDDs are effective in reducing speed, especially for those drivers that are exceeding the posted speed limit.

#### **What is the purpose of installing DSDDs on Austin roadways?**

Although law enforcement is an effective way to manage speeds, it requires significant resources to ensure compliance. In some cases, alternative speed management methods may be necessary to deter drivers who travel faster than the posted speed limit. One such method is through the use of dynamic speed display signs (DSDDs) that help motorists self-enforce their speed.

In fall of 2016 the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) initiated a Rotating "Pilot" program for deploying DSDDs at various locations around the City based on citizen complaints and other community input. Each DSDD unit is left in place for 6 weeks at a time to collect real time data on vehicular speeds and volumes. Additionally, ATD is also deploying DSDDs on a permanent basis at some locations, for on-going speed monitoring and management, as part of its Traffic Calming program.

#### **What happens if a DSDD is vandalized?**

ATD takes safety very seriously. If there is an act of intentional damage, we will work with Austin Police Department concerning the damages. According to the Texas Penal Code, vandalizing public property is a

felony and the individual(s) committing the crime may be held criminally responsible for any injuries or damages caused by their actions. Please help the City keep your streets safe by reporting vandalism to APD, so that the individual(s) may be held responsible.

**How can I request a DSDD?**

Please contact Austin 3-1-1 to request a DSDD deployment on your street. Additional information on DSDDs may be found on the City's website using the following link:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/dynamic-speed-display-devices>