

Recommendations for Rumble Strip Installation

Traffic accidents arise from the complex interaction of many factors. Motor vehicles are driven by humans at high speeds amidst a road environment that is constantly changing. We can think of traffic accidents as exposing the flaws in the road transportation system. Likewise, traffic safety measures can be described as remedying these flaws and steadily improving road transportation safety. In 1997, the American Society of Civil Engineering declared, “As we enter the 21st century, the issue which must be met by transportation authorities is transportation safety and effective management of traffic congestion.” In the final analysis, transportation safety is really a management issue.

Rumble strips have been developed by the Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region (CERI) to prevent head-on collisions, run-off-the-road accidents and other serious accidents. The rumble strips have been developed and examined through installation on test roads and experimentation on national highways. Their ease of installation, low cost and high effectiveness has brought attention to this new transportation safety measure, one that has been developed in Hokkaido.

Safety measures must be based on a long-term outlook and they must meet the challenges of the new intelligent transport systems (ITS). It is also necessary to remedy the flaws of the road transportation system by applying research results and accomplishments in the short and medium term. For these reasons, we have great hope that rumble strips will play a major role in preventing serious traffic accidents.

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