

## **CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE PRODUCTION OF AN APPRAISAL TOOL FOR LOCAL SPEED LIMITS**

**Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
**Submission details: see below**

The Department for Transport (DfT) has commissioned a project to design and implement a tool, hosted on the DfT website, to help local authorities assess the full costs and benefits and make robustly defensible decisions about local speeds.

DfT is in the process of developing the relationships that underpin the tool, for example, the relationship between speed limit changes and changes in actual speeds.

**As part of this preparatory work, the department would like to better understand the state of the existing evidence base on the impacts of speed limit changes, particularly in terms of changes in actual speeds, but also encompassing wider impacts such as traffic diversion/suppression, accidents, emissions, noise, journey time reliability, mode shift, severance and quality of life.**

DfT will be undertaking a brief scanning exercise to augment existing knowledge. As part of this, we are keen to receive contributions from researchers and other organisations working in the field to ensure that we have the full picture of recent, unpublished and forthcoming research and evaluation. We will be pleased to share the results of our scanning exercise with contributors as a thank you for assisting us.

The table below presents details of what is **in scope** for this call for evidence, and the types of evidence that we are looking for.

**Evidence will be gratefully received up to 30th April 2012. Please send contributions (and any queries), preferably in electronic format, to:**

**Road Safety Research**  
Social Research and Evaluation  
Department for Transport  
Zone 2/25 Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

RoadSafety.Research@dft.gsi.gov.uk

**PLEASE CIRCULATE AS APPROPRIATE**

With thanks in advance for your assistance.

	<b>IN SCOPE</b>	<b>OUT OF SCOPE</b>
<b>Type of scheme evaluated</b>	<p><b>Any scheme which involved a change in local speed limits.</b> This includes schemes of any size both with and without accompanying traffic calming, enforcement, and public awareness campaigns.</p> <p>When responding please specify the following, if relevant information is available:</p> <p><u>Scheme details</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speed limit type before and after</li> <li>- Whether traffic calming measures were applied</li> <li>- Level of enforcement</li> <li>- Whether a public awareness campaign was undertaken</li> <li>- Scheme size i.e. Number of links and/or length of roads covered by the scheme, preferably including a plan of the scheme</li> <li>- Capital, maintenance and enforcement and other ongoing costs.</li> </ul>	Changes in motorway and dual carriageway speed limits.
<b>Nature of outcomes evaluated/ objectives and impacts of the schemes</b>	<p>Any of....</p> <p><u>Outcomes / Impacts evaluated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before and after mean speeds by site/link</li> <li>- Before and after route journey times</li> <li>- Before and after accidents by severity including the basis for measurement</li> <li>- Before and after emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>.</li> <li>- Impacts on traffic flows</li> <li>- Impacts on noise and vibration</li> <li>- Impacts on walking and cycling and other mode shift</li> <li>- Environmental and quality of life impacts</li> <li>- Any other impacts perceived as important to the authority (both monetised and non-monetised)</li> </ul>	
<b>Target population</b>	Any users impacted by speed limit changes.	
<b>Date of data collection</b>	2002 onwards.	
<b>Country where research was conducted</b>	UK (and comparable nations where there is a case for generalising the results to the UK)	Other international
<b>Publication source and language of publication</b>	Any source, including unpublished research (please state your requirements for confidentiality).  English language only.	Languages other than English
<b>Nature of research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appraisal</li> <li>- Impact evaluation</li> <li>- Process evaluation</li> <li>- Economic evaluation</li> <li>- Meta analyses</li> </ul> <p>Although our focus is on evaluation research, we are interested in other forms of high quality research (both qualitative and quantitative).</p>	Opinion or think pieces