

Transportation

Conducting traffic studies

IS THERE a location in your jurisdiction about which you have traffic safety concerns? The new *Handbook of Simplified Practice for Traffic Studies* provides easy-to-follow instructions, real-world examples, and model work orders for five traffic studies commonly conducted by Iowa cities and counties.

Making critical studies easy and affordable

Well executed, well documented traffic studies help local transportation agencies make informed project decisions and respond to the public's safety concerns. However, cities and counties often have limited experience and resources to perform these studies.

The new handbook was developed specifically to meet the needs of Iowa's small and mid-sized jurisdictions. It describes straightforward procedures for conducting or contracting out traffic studies. City and county administrators, elected officials, and the general public will benefit from the handbook's nontechnical presentation of standard traffic study procedures and the resulting, well supported recommendations.

Complete, concise information

The *Handbook of Simplified Practice for Traffic Studies* covers five of Iowa's most commonly conducted traffic studies:

1. spot speed studies
2. traffic volume counts
3. sight distance studies
4. crash analyses
5. school zone programs

For each study type, the handbook includes an introduction, step-by-step instructions, blank data-collection forms, and real-world examples. Charts, tables, photos, and illustrations clearly communicate concepts, examples, and methods of collecting, representing, and interpreting study results.

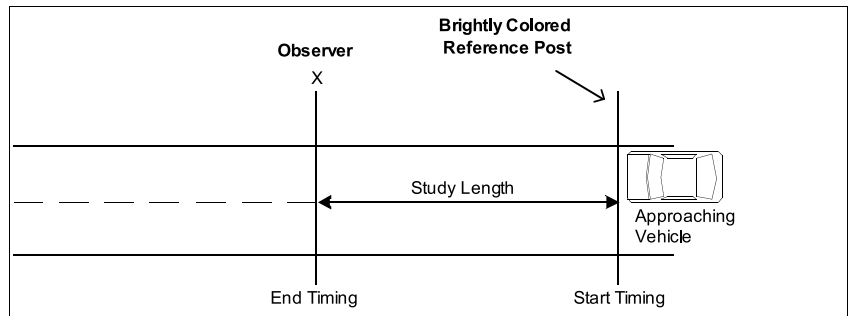
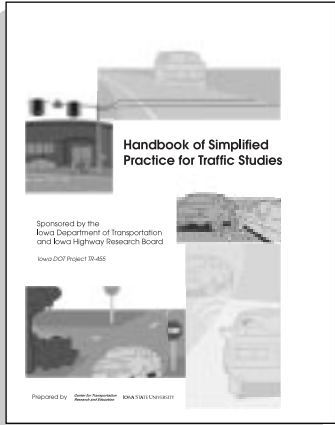
The handbook also includes example scopes of work that local jurisdictions can modify or use to hire outside professionals to perform the studies.

For more information

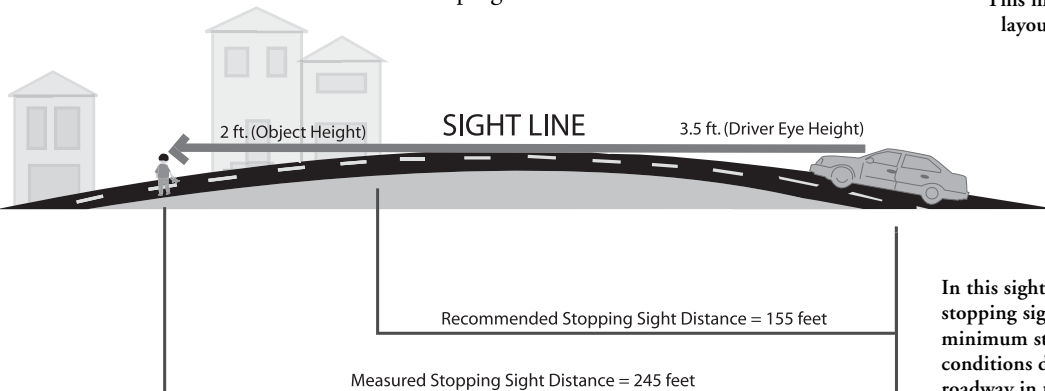
The traffic studies handbook was developed by CTRE at Iowa State University and sponsored by the Iowa Highway Research Board (project TR-455).

Electronic copies are available at www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/traffichandbook/; printed copies may be requested by contacting Traci Stewart, 515-294-8103, stewartt@iastate.edu.

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This illustration from the handbook shows the recommended layout for conducting a spot speed study using a stopwatch.



In this sight distance study example, the measured (actual) stopping sight distance is greater than the recommended minimum stopping sight distance. In other words, in normal conditions drivers should be able to see an object in the roadway in time to stop before hitting it.