What people are saying about rumble strips in their community

"I have been road commissioner in the town of Woolwich for over 30 years and was supportive of the centerline rumble strip installation on the Woolwich portion of Route 1. Route 1 is a heavily travelled road, especially during the summer months. I firmly believe the strip is very effective as a preventative safety measure, most significantly, in the avoidance of head-on collisions. The benefit, in my opinion, far out-weighs any inconvenience experienced due to the occasional resulting noise."

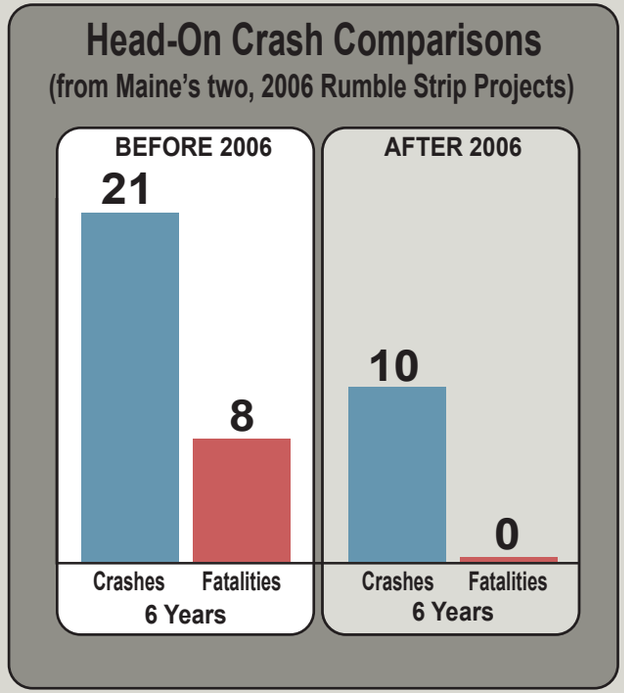
~ Jack A. Shaw, *Woolwich Road Commissioner*

"...the positive impact of rumble strips along U.S. Route 1 in Woolwich a 100% decrease in fatalities over a 5 or 6 year period speaks for itself. In fact, since I've been sheriff, beginning in January of 2009, we have only had a couple of head-on collisions. On a heavily traveled road that is considered wide and open, speed will always be a factor. Keeping vehicles in their proper lane is crucial, and that is what rumble strips do.

As for the noise related to the rumble strips, we have not received complaints, and now that they have been there for so many years, residents have become acclimated to them. Besides, the sheer volume of traffic along Route 1 creates enough noise that the rumble strips are really not noticed."

~Sheriff Joel A. Merry
Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office

52% Reduction in Crashes
100% Improvement in Fatalities



Improving Safety on Maine's Roads

Questions?

Contact MaineDOT at:
207-624-3278
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URS-3-2015-1000

Understanding Rumble Strips

MaineDOT

Maine's Leading Crash Issue

70 % of Maine highway fatalities occur when drivers leave their proper lane of travel and drive off the road or into oncoming traffic.

Maine experiences an average of 800 head-on crashes a year. They are devastating, claiming nearly 40 lives annually.

What causes drivers to drive out of their lane?

The leading factors are:

- driver fatigue and drowsiness;
- distracted driving;
- unsafe speed; or
- alcohol and drugs.

Slippery road surfaces and poor visibility in adverse weather conditions can increase the chances of lane departure.

Although technologies are being developed to help drivers stay in their lane, other mitigations are needed. The most effective and proven prevention to date is the rumble strip. Use of rumble strips has contributed to a significant reduction of serious lane departure crashes.

An Effective Safety Solution

Rumble strips create noise and vibration when the vehicle drives off the pavement or across the center line. Often, this alert gets the attention of a distracted or drowsy driver, who can quickly make a corrective steering action. Rumble strips can also alert drivers to the lane limits when conditions such as rain, fog, or snow reduce driver visibility. Rumble strips retain lane paint markings and provide improved lane identification.

Crashes Reduced

11 states and one national study have analyzed the effectiveness of centerline rumble strips in reducing crashes. These studies conclude that crossover crashes were reduced by 18% to 64%, with most studies showing 40% to 60% reductions.

Types of Rumble Strips

Edge line or shoulder rumble strips are placed on the right side of the lane to alert drivers when they have drifted from their lane. Shoulders of adequate width are necessary for this type of rumble strip.

Centerline rumble strips are the most common treatment installed on Maine's two- lane roads. They are designed to alert drivers who may be heading for a potentially deadly head-on collision.

Maine rumble strips will be selectively installed on roads with speed limits of 45 mph or greater. Skips in the rumble strip pattern facilitate motorcycle lane changes and are for bicycle safety.

Maine's first non-interstate rumble strips were installed in 2006. Maine currently has centerline rumble strips installed on portions of seven routes throughout the state. Crash reductions, particularly for head-on crashes, have been significant.