

INFORMATION SHEET

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS), SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SID'S) AND COMMUNITY FUNDED SID'S

Vehicle activated signs have been developed to address the problem of inappropriate speed where conventional signing has not been effective.

The signs used recently have been of two types:

1. Warning of a hazard, encouraging drivers to approach hazards such as bends and junctions at a safe speed.



2. Speed enforcing, encouraging drivers to comply with the speed limit e.g. through villages. These are usually called Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) and can be either permanent or temporary.



Drivers exceeding a set threshold speed trigger a sign indicating the specific hazard or the speed limit.

There have been many requests for this type of signing from local communities, some of them willing to fund such signing. However, it is important that all traffic anywhere in the County (or in the Country for that matter) is controlled and managed in a totally consistent and defensible manner that also promotes the very best guidance and good practice relating to road safety. This is the responsibility of the Highway Authority. The proliferation of these signs at many sites throughout the County will reduce their overall effectiveness, and also reduce the beneficial effect that the signs would have at those sites where there is a history of speed related injury accidents.

The signs will therefore only be used in the following circumstances:

Permanent signs (both hazard warning and speed indicator devices SID's)

The siting of permanent vehicle activated signs will only be effective if their use is properly targeted at prescribed locations. Permanent vehicle activated signs will ONLY therefore be considered and funded as part of a road safety scheme, where there is evidence of an accident problem associated with inappropriate speed that has not been satisfactorily remedied by standard signing or an otherwise appropriate solution.

Temporary Speed Indicator Devices (SID's)

Somerset County Council, Local Transport Plan (LTP) Funded

It is recognised that there are sites that do not meet the requirements for a permanent vehicle activated sign but would benefit from the use of a SID where there is evidence of an personal injury accident or speed problem.

A **speed problem** is identified where recorded 85%ile speeds are over 10% + 3mph higher than the posted speed limit. i.e. from 36mph in a 30mph limit and from 47mph in a 40mph limit.

As part of the Road Safety Partnership, it is anticipated that 20 SID's will be funded through the Local Transport Plan within the next 12 months, specifically targeting settlements in the 10 identified 'worst' accident routes in the County but with the option to use the signs at other locations as necessary.

The priority for the installation of SID's will be as follows:

1. Sites with a personal injury accident history and evidence of speed problem
2. Sites with active Community Speed Watch and evidence of speed problem
3. Sites with evidence of speed problem.

The locations identified will also be included on the list of community concern sites for occasional camera enforcement depending of their priority.

The SID's will:

- be placed for approximately 2 weeks, one in either direction if possible and will capture speed data.
- be erected on existing posts where possible but specific posts will be erected where required.
- be fixed to permanent brackets placed on the posts for ease of movement.
- be battery operated.

Community funded SID's

For SCC funded signs, in accordance with the LTP, priority will be given to those sites where there is an accident history. Although there will be other sites with a speed problem they are unlikely to receive the SIDs very often and in some cases possibly not at all.

In these circumstances, communities with evidence of a speed problem may make an annual contribution of £750** to obtain these signs for 2 weeks in every 4 months. This cost estimate is based on the funding from 8 communities and will include the purchase, maintenance and moving of the signs.

In addition to the annual contribution an initial set up cost of approximately £500 may be required if a new posts/brackets are required for the fixing of the SIDs. Please see the attached flowchart for communities to obtain such signing.

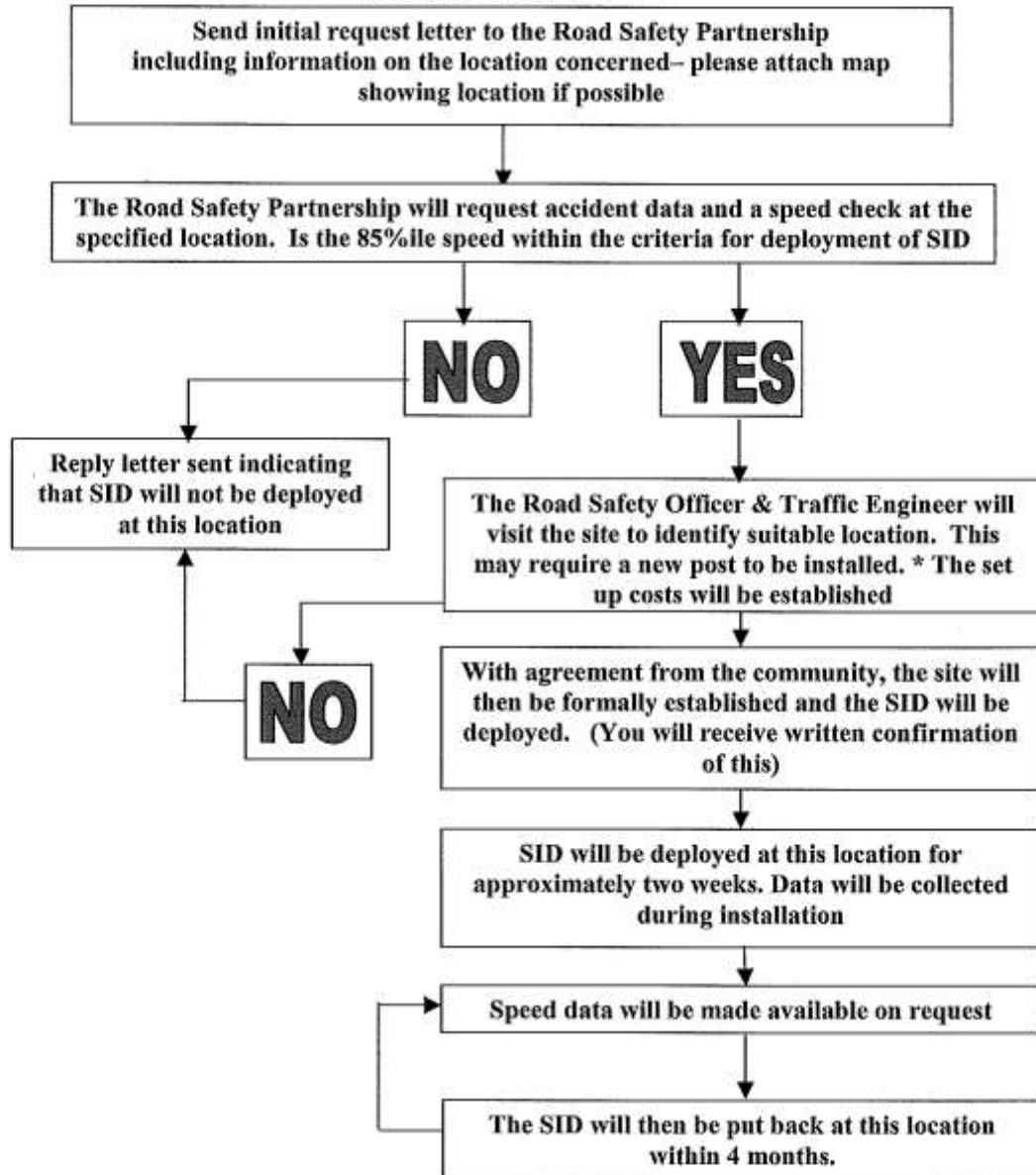
Area Panels

Area panels may wish to fund or part fund (in partnership with parishes) the deployment of SID's in the Panel's area. The same protocol would apply to their deployment in there should be evidence of a speed problem as defined previously in this document.

** We are not looking to make a profit from the use of these signs but will need to cover our costs. This figure may therefore be subject to change.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

GUIDANCE ON REQUESTS FOR COMMUNITY FUNDED SID'S



* Please note -- New Health and Safety Regulations regarding working above head height have been introduced. Therefore, locations without a level surface, with easy access will not be considered for deployment of SID. The Road Safety Officer & Traffic Engineer will be responsible for identifying these suitable locations, and will reserve the right to deem any locations unsuitable for SID.

If you require any further information, please contact the Road Safety Partnership on 01823 423430.