

Improvement of Road Safety at T-junctions

Analysis of past accident records have show that a most of the fatal and grievous accidents occurred on straight stretches of roads and at T-junctions. Both these can be attributed to high speeds. Therefore there is an urgent need to introduce some counter measures to bring down the speeds at accident prone locations which in turn will reduce the severity of accidents. It is necessary to develop a technique that would force the drivers to slow down. The use of a set of transverse bar markings located at gradually reduced spacing has been adopted in other countries. The usefulness of this technique to Sri Lanka has to be investigated by finding the response of the drivers to it. There is also a need to determine the appropriate strategy to make it a success in Sri Lanka.

It was found with field studies that the response of the drivers of fast moving vehicles to the transverse bar makings is only marginal. Therefore, it should be accompanied by thermo-plastic strips that would give the noise effect to the drivers. An educational campaign is also necessary so that drivers will understand the presence of an accident prone location as they come across the transverse bar markings. These bar markings have the particular advantage of giving notice to the drivers about 200 m prior to the junction and also to give the warning continuously as they approach the junction. These will be advantage than humps and rumble strips since bar markings will affect only the fast moving vehicles. Therefore, this measure should be adopted at least on trial basis at few locations in Sri Lanka.