

Rumble Strips Installed in Center of Road for Safety

Iowa drivers are familiar with the rumble strips on the shoulders of roadways that alert drivers if their vehicle leaves the roadway. Iowa, and many other states, install the rumble strips as a safety measure.

Recently, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has adopted a policy to include centerline rumble strips on certain sections of two-lane highways as another measure to prevent cross centerline crashes.

The department has already installed the eighteen inch wide centerline rumble strips in three test project areas: U.S. 34 in Union County, U.S. 52 in Dubuque County, and U.S. 61 in Des Moines County. At least eleven other states are using the centerline rumble strips.

Two-lane highways with high traffic volumes are the roadways with the most cross centerline crashes. A few years ago, DOT began installing cable median barriers in an effort to reduce cross centerline crashes. It has proven successful, but it may not be the best fit for all portions of highways.