The effects in distance and time of traffic calming measures near road transitions and discontinuities by means of driving simulator research

dr. Caroline Ariën 25 October 2016



Content

1. Introduction

- 2. Driving simulator research
- 3. Rural-to-urban transitions
- 4. Tangent-to-curve discontinuities
- 5. Conclusions



1. Road safety problem



- Fatalities per year
 - EU: 25.700
 - Belgium: 724
 - Flanders: 374





1. Safe System Approach

- Pro-active approach: limitations of road user at the center of attention
 - Limited cognitive characteristics
 - Limited vulnerability
- Swiss Cheese Model
- Ergonomic or human-centered road design



KNOWLEDGE IN

1. Human capabilities and limitations



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1. Relationship speed – road safety

Speed perception

- Visual, auditory, haptic and proprioceptive senses
- Speed ~ amount of information
- 30% of fatal accidents are related to speed



1. Road categorization & self-explaining roads



Transitions = short road segment where a change in road category or road functionality takes place and where an adaptation of the behavior of the driver is required through a set of correct expectations on how one has to behave in order to be driving safely.





Traffic safety problem at rural-to-urban transitions*



- Inadequate speed reduction
 - Speed adaptation
 - Mental underload

→ Traffic Calming Measures (TCM)



* Charlton & O'Brien (2002); Galante et al. (2010); Taylor & Wheeler (2000)

Discontinuities = where an adaptation of the driving behavior is required due to a major change in road design within the same road category or road functionality and the resulting set of correct expectation on how one has to behave in order to be driving safely.





 Traffic safety problem in tangent-to-curve discontinuities*



Speed



* SafetyNet (2009); Srinivasa et al. (2009); Charlton (2007)

Lateral

position

Attentional

demand

- Appropriate speed and lateral control
- Redesign of curve: but not always possible
- Additional infrastructural traffic control devices
 - Signs
 - Pavement markings





Objective: Effects of traffic calming measures



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2. Driving simulator research



- Advantages
 - PRO-active ⇔ RE-active
 - Safe
 - Easy data collection
 - Selective manipulation and control
- Challenges
 - Validity
 - Simulator sickness
- Longitudinal control: speed, acc/dec
- Lateral control: lateral position



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A simulator study on the impact of traffic calming measures in urban areas on driving behavior and workload



Ariën, C.; Jongen, E.M.M.; Brijs, K.; Brijs, T.; Daniels, S.; Wets, G. (2013) *Accident Analysis & Prevention*

3.1 Literature review

- Large influence of context and type of gate constructions on speed
 - Field experiments
 - Speed reduction between 5 and 24 kph
 - 8 to 10 kph more typical
 - Simulator studies
 - Speed reduction between 6.4 and 17 kph
 - No consistent speed reduction beyond vicinity of gate (300 to 400m)











3.1 Methodology



3.1 Methodology

- PDT = Peripheral Detection Task
 - Workload measure
 - Detect red square in upper left visual field







3.1 Results

- Q1. Workload experience outside versus inside urban area?
- ➔ Workload decreased outside urban area
- Mean RT
 - Outside < inside
- Mean hit rate
 - Outside > inside



3.1 Results

Q2. Influence of gate constructions on mean speed



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Does the effect of traffic calming measures endure over time? – A simulator study on the influence of gates



Ariën, C.; Brijs, K.; Brijs, T.; Ceulemans, W.; Jongen, E.M.M; Daniels, S.; Wets, G. (2014) *Transportation Research Part F*

3.2 Repeated exposure

Driving simulator studies
 Jamson & Lai*: "potential influence of novelty effects"





3.2 Repeated exposure

Driving simulator studies
 Jamson & Lai*: "potential influence of novelty effects"





3.2 Repeated exposure

Driving simulator studies
 Jamson & Lai*: "potential influence of novelty effects"



* Jamson & Lai (2011)

3.2 Methodology

- Participation during 5 consecutive weekdays
 - Day 1: introduction, practice session + 17 km test trip
 - Day 2-5: practice session + 17 km test trip
 - I urban area with gate and 1 without gate

3.2 Results



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3.2 Results



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3.2 Results



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Measuring the impact of digital information displays on speed: A driving simulator study



Ariën, C.; Cornu, J.; Brijs, K.; Brijs, T.; Vanroelen, G.; Jongen, E.M.M; Daniels, S.; Wets, G. *Submitted in Accident Analysis & Prevention*

3.3 Literature review

 Digital information displays (DID): speed reducation in case of speeding and at problem locations*



- Wrapson*: posted feedback of speeding information is effective
 - It introduces social comparison \rightarrow approval/disapproval
 - It implies police surveillance \rightarrow deterrence

* Ullman & Rose (2005); Santiago-Chaparro et al. (2012) Wrapson et al. (2006)

3.3 Methodology

Effectiveness of 3 DID messages



Explicitly related to police enforcement → Fear for fine

> "Speed enforcement"

Flits controle



3.3 Methodology

2 rural-to-urban transitions
 → Geo-specific database modelling^{*}



* Yan et al. (2008)



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111 3.3 Methodology



3.3 Results



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The effect of pavement markings on driving behavior in curves: A simulator study



Ariën, C.; Brijs, K.; Vanroelen, G.; Jongen, E.M.M; Daniels, S.; Brijs, T.; Wets, G. (2016) *Ergonomics*

4.1 Dangerous curves

2 dangerous curves
 → Geo-specific database modelling*



* Yan et al. (2008)



4.1 Pavement markings

- Pavement markings qualified as perceptual countermeasure
 - Transversal rumble strips (TRS)
 Impression of increased motion





* McGee & Hanscom (2006); Godley (1999); Montalla et al. (2010); Charlton (2007)



4.1 Pavement markings

- Pavement markings qualified as perceptual countermeasure
 - Transversal rumble strips (TRS)
 Impression of increased motion

Herringbone pattern (HP)
 Impression of lane narrowing









4.1 Methodology







4.1 Results



4.1 Results



A driving simulator study on the effect of transversal rumble strips located nearby dangerous curves under repeated exposure



Ariën, C.; Brijs, K.; Vanroelen, G.; Ceulemans, W.; Jongen, E.M.M; Daniels, S.; Brijs, T.; Wets, G. *Submitted to European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure*

4.2 Methodology

- Participation during 5 consecutive weekdays
 - Day 1: introduction, practice session + 17 km test trip
 - Day 2-5: practice session + 17 km test trip
 - Four curves, alternated with filler pieces
 - 2 curves of type A + 2 curves of type B
 - 2 without TRS + 2 with TRS

4.2 Results Curve A



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4.2 Results Curve A



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4.2 Results Curve A



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4. Results Curve B



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5. Overview of main results

Local speed reductions



Limited influence on lateral position

Smoother deceleration

5. Policy recommendations

Macro









5. TCM as part of self-explaing road network

- Future research
 - Different design configurations
 - Optimal distance between TCM and transition / discontinuity
 - Complementary TCMs
- Role of TCM in completly self-explaining road network
 - Mitigating & signaling function
- Integration of research results in design standards



Journal publications

- ARIËN Caroline; JONGEN Ellen M.M.; BRIJS Kris; BRIJS Tom; DANIELS Stijn; WETS Geert (2013). A Simulator Study on the Impact of Traffic Calming Measures in Urban Areas on Driving Behavior and Workload. Accident Analysis & Prevention, 61, 43–53. doi:10.1016/j.aap.2012.12.044. [web of science: 5 year impact factor 3.096].
- ARIËN Caroline; BRIJS Kris; BRIJS Tom; CEULEMANS Wesley; VANROELEN Giovanni; JONGEN Ellen M. M.; DANIELS Stijn; WETS Geert (2014). Does the effect of traffic calming measures endure over time? – A simulator study on the influence of gates. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour, 22*, 63–75. doi:10.1016/j.trf.2013.10.010. [web of science: 5 year impact factor 2.349].
- ARIËN, Caroline; BRIJS, Kris; VANROELEN, Giovanni; CEULEMANS, Wesley; JONGEN, Ellen M.M.; DANIELS, Stijn; BRIJS, Tom; WETS, Geert (2016) The effect of pavement markings on driving behavior in curves: a simulator study. In *Ergonomics*, doi: 10.1080/00140139.2016.1200749. [web of science: 5 year impact factor 1.804].
- ARIËN, Caroline; BRIJS, Kris; VANROELEN, Giovanni; CEULEMANS, Wesley; JONGEN, Ellen M.M.; DANIELS, Stijn; BRIJS, Tom; WETS, Geert (n.d.) A driving simulator study on the effect oftransversal rumble strips located nearby dangerous curves under repeated exposure. Submitted for first review in *European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research* [web of science: 5 year impact factor 1.144].
- ARIËN, Caroline; CORNU, Joris; BRIJS, Kris; BRIJS, Tom; VANROELEN, Giovanni; JONGEN, Ellen M.M.; DANIELS, Stijn; WETS, Geert (n.d.) Measuring the impact of digital information displays on speed: A driving simulator study. Submitted for first review in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. [web of science: 5 year impact factor 2.699].



Questions?

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