High Tension Cable Barrier in Median

Change in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes, 2001-2011

Eric DeVoe, Lesa Monroe MnDOT Office of Traffic, Safety & Technology November 2012

Statewide Locations

High Tension Cable Barrier Locations

- Installed 2004 2008
- Installed 2009 2012
- Installation Planned





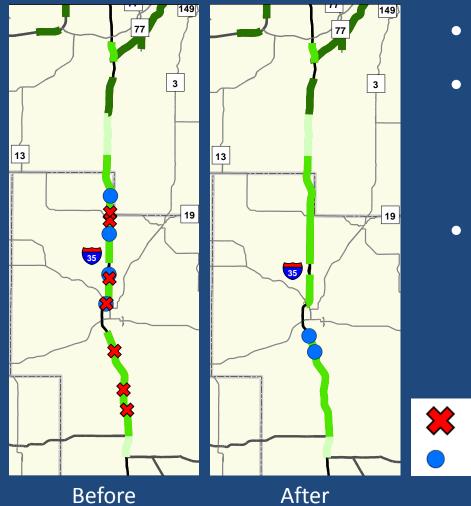
Selection Criteria

Segments

- High Tension Cable Barrier in median
- Barrier installed 2004-2008
- 31 segments identified
- Crash Data
 - 3 years before installation
 - 3 years after installation
 - Only cross-median crashes

- Before, All Segments
 - 19 fatal crashes
 - 8 serious injury crashes
 - 57 moderate injury crashes
 - 99 possible injury crashes
 - 281 property damage crashes
- After, All Segments
 - 0 fatal crashes
 - 6 serious injury crashes
 - 58 moderate injury crashes
 - 114 possible injury crashes
 - 1,022 property damage crashes

Sample Segment, I-35



• 35E/35W split to US 14

Before

- 8 fatal crashes
- 3 serious injury crashes
- After

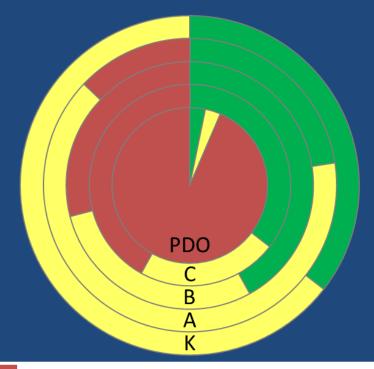
Fatal crashes

Serious Injury crashes

- 0 fatal crashes
- 2 serious injury crashes

Before and After

- No fatal crashes in after period!
- Severity of crossmedian crashes shifted down!
 - Visually, percent of segments with increase in crashes *decreases* as severity *increases*.



Percent of roadways with *increase* in crashes.
Percent of roadways with no change in crashes.
Percent of roadways with *decrease* in crashes.

Observed Change in Crashes

- No fatal crashes in after period!
- High Tension Cable Barrier in the median is intended to reduce severity rather than decrease total crashes
 - Confirmed in analysis.

• Total Crashes + 251%

- - 100% fatal
- - 25% serious injury
- + 2% moderate injury
- + 15% possible injury
- + 264% property damage
- Statistically significant change in fatal (*p* =.001) and property damage (*p* =.000) crashes

Crash Savings

- Total Crash Cost:
 - Before = \$ 29,690,400
 - After = \$ 18,344,800

- Average Crash Cost:
 - Before = \$63,988
 - After = \$15,287

- Observed 38% reduction in TOTAL crash costs!
- Calculated with conservative costs: Fatal = 2 × A Injury.

- Observed 76% reduction in AVERAGE crash costs!
- Weighted average by prevalence of total crashes.