



School Zone Speed Detection System
Placement and Installation Specifications
December 28, 2023
Revised: July 21, 2025

Section 1.0 General

Section 316.0776, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was amended and signed into law with an effective date of July 1, 2023. Section 316.0776 (3), F.S., was created to authorize the installation of Speed Detection Systems (SDSs) in School Zones and requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to establish placement and installation specifications. As defined in Section 316.003, F.S., an SDS is a portable or fixed automated system used to detect a motor vehicle's speed using radar or LiDAR and to capture a photograph or video of the rear of a motor vehicle that exceeds the speed limit in force at the time of the violation. Any approved SDS shall be installed in accordance with the FDOT SDS Placement and Installation Specifications set forth herein.

Section 2.0 Definitions

The following words and phrases, when used in the FDOT SDS Placement and Installation Specifications, shall have the following meanings:

- AASHTO— American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
- SZM—FDOT Manual on Speed Zoning for Highways, Roads, and Streets in Florida (Rule 14-15.012, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)), also known as Speed Zone Manual.
- School Zone—the portion of a street or highway located within a school area that includes an established school speed limit posted thereof with signs and flashing beacons, consistent with Chapter 15 of the SZM.

Section 3.0 Application and Documentation

A County or Municipality requesting to install an SDS, fixed or portable, in a school zone on the State Highway System (SHS) for school zone speed enforcement shall complete and submit a General Use Permit (GUP) application using FDOT's online permitting system, One Stop Permitting (<https://osp.fdot.gov/>), or by completing the FDOT Form 850-040-05 (<https://pdl.fdot.gov/Forms>), to the local FDOT Operations Center with the following documentation (Applicants are encouraged to contact the local FDOT Operations Center prior to submitting the GUP application):

1. Letter from the County or Municipality using agency letterhead and signed by Chief Executive requesting the installation of an SDS and authorizing an individual to submit the GUP application on behalf of the agency.
2. A copy of the County or Municipality Ordinance authorizing the SDS, including the time of day and the speed limits that are to be enforced.
3. Site Plans denoting the location(s) of each proposed fixed or portable SDS installation, location(s) of any supplemental device(s) installed and used to capture a photograph or video of the school zone flashing beacons, location(s) of the nearby FDOT infrastructure (e.g., traffic control devices and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices), and other location and offset criteria (i.e., offset direction and offset distance) denoted in Section 4.0. Site Plans shall include all pertinent electrical, communication, and Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly (see Attachment A, attached and made a part of these FDOT SDS Placement and Installation Specifications) details.
4. Standard structural installation and foundation details, signed and sealed by a Florida-licensed Professional Engineer, for the use of fixed SDS and any supplemental device(s) to capture a photograph or video of the school zone flashing beacons on the SHS.
5. A certification statement signed by an authorized official of the County, Municipality, or their contracted vendor indicating that the SDS conforms to FDOT SDS Placement and Installation Specifications described in Section 4.0.

A new GUP application with the above documentation will be required when an existing portable SDS is proposed to be relocated to a new school zone.

Section 4.0 SDS Placement and Installation Specifications

The following requirements apply to the placement and installation of an SDS in a school zone on the SHS or on a street or highway under the jurisdiction of a County or Municipality:

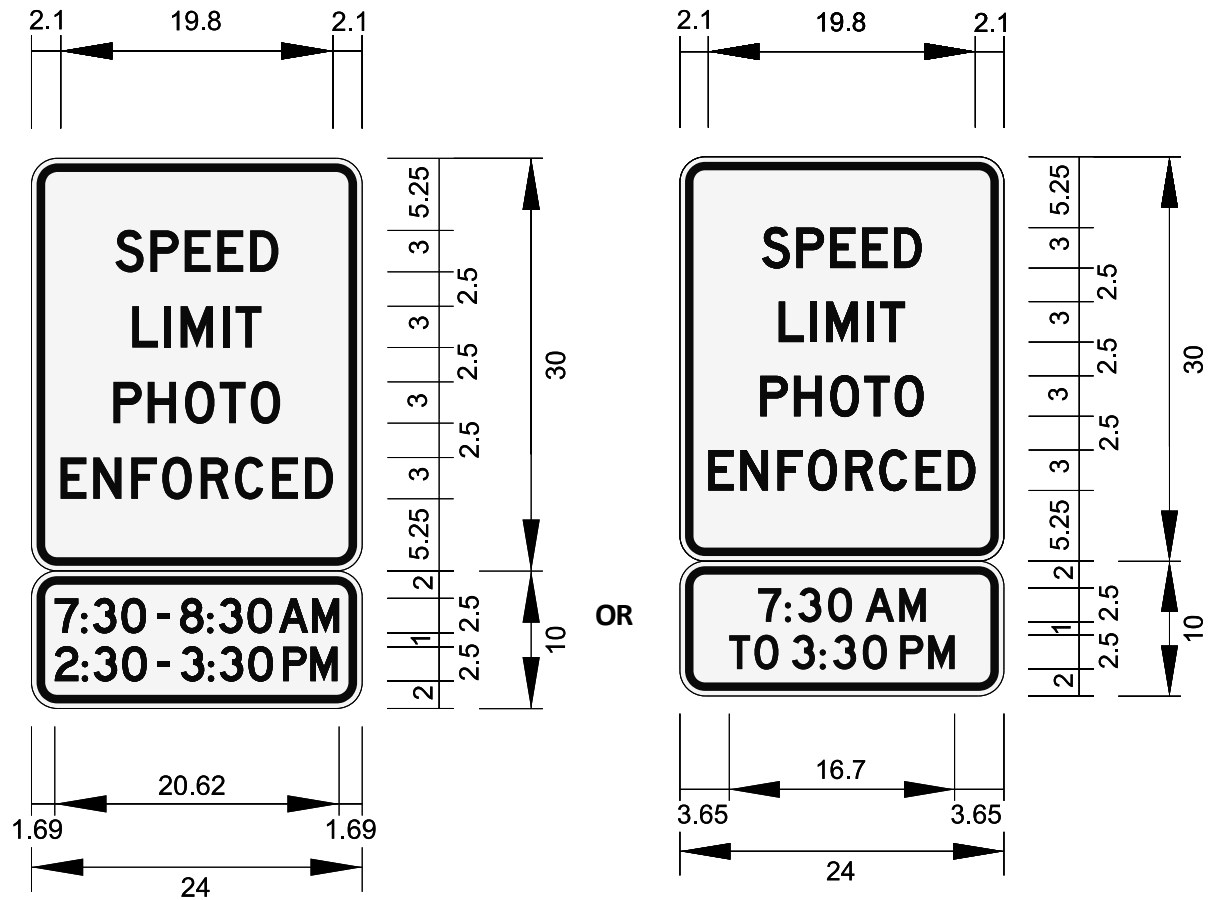
1. The placement and installation of an SDS and the structure supporting the SDS shall not reduce, impede, restrict, or obstruct driver view or sight distance of any intersection, driveway, crosswalk, or existing traffic control devices. An SDS shall be installed at a location where it does not detect vehicles beyond the beginning and end points of school zone limits.
2. An SDS, fixed or portable, shall be an independent standalone device with independent communications and an independent power source. The FDOT traffic signal system communications interconnect or fiber communications shall not be used to access, receive, or transfer SDS communications data.
3. Fixed SDS shall have breakaway support mechanisms meeting the requirements published in the current *AASHTO LRFD Specifications for Structural Supports for Highway Signs, Luminaires, and Traffic Signals* and the *AASHTO Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)*.
4. An SDS, fixed or portable, shall not be placed within sidewalks. Any placement adjacent to sidewalks shall meet or exceed the current minimum Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA) requirements. An SDS shall be installed as close to the right-of-way line as possible and in compliance with the following criteria:

- (a) For urban curb and gutter roadways with posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour (mph) or less, placement shall be located no closer than 4 feet from the face of the curb.
 - (b) For all other roadways, placement shall be located no closer than 12 feet from the traveled way, unless placed behind an existing barrier with the appropriate setback distance. W-beam guardrail requires a minimum of 5-foot setback from the face of the barrier and concrete barriers require a minimum of 2-foot setback from the face of the barrier.
5. An SDS equipped with a flashing or illuminator device shall be mounted, positioned, filtered, or angled in such a way that the driver's visual field of view is not obstructed.
6. For all school zones where an SDS, fixed or portable, is to be installed, a ground-mounted Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly as depicted in Attachment A shall be installed 100 feet prior to the furthest most upstream point of the existing S1-1 school zone warning sign. In cases where other signs exist within this area, engineering judgment should be applied to determine the appropriate location of the Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly. Ground-mounted signs shall meet requirements of FDOT Standard Specifications Section 700 and be designed in accordance with FDOT Standard Plans, Index 700-010.
 - (a) The Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly as depicted in Attachment A shall be placed on all side street approaches to a school zone where an SDS is to be placed or installed.
 - (b) For school zones located along multilane divided roadways with a physical median, the Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly as depicted in Attachment A shall be installed on both the roadside and the median.
7. In order to capture a photograph or video of the school zone flashing beacons to verify the speed limit in force at the time of violation, a supplemental device can be installed outside the school zone as a standalone structure or be attached to the back of the Speed Limit Photo Enforced sign assembly. The requirements for the placement and installation of an SDS per Section 4.0.1 through Section 4.0.5 of the FDOT SDS Placement and Installation Specifications are applicable to the placement and installation of such device(s).

Attachment A

Speed Limit Photo Enforced Sign Assembly for Roadways with Posted Speed Limit 40 mph or less



FTP - MINIMUM, SPEED LIMIT PHOTO ENFORCED;
 1.5" Radius, 0.63" Border, 0.38" Indent, Black on White;
 "SPEED" D 2K;
 "LIMIT" D 2K;
 "PHOTO" D 2K;
 "ENFORCED" D 2K;

AUX PANEL, FTP MINIMUM;
 1.5" Radius, 0.63" Border, 0.38" Indent, Black on White;
 "7:30 - 8:30 AM" D 2K 75% Letter Spacing;
 "2:30-3:30 PM" D 2K 75% Letter Spacing

When the SDS is to be used for school zone speed enforcement within 30 minutes before through 30 minutes after the start of a regularly scheduled school session or breakfast program and within 30 minutes before through 30 minutes after the end of a regularly scheduled school session.

FTP - MINIMUM, SPEED LIMIT PHOTO ENFORCED;
 1.5" Radius, 0.63" Border, 0.38" Indent, Black on White;
 "SPEED" D 2K;
 "LIMIT" D 2K;
 "PHOTO" D 2K;
 "ENFORCED" D 2K;

AUX PANEL, FTP MINIMUM;
 1.5" Radius, 0.63" Border, 0.38" Indent, Black on White;
 "7:30 AM" D 2K 75% Letter Spacing;
 "TO 3:30 PM" D 2K 75% Letter Spacing

When the SDS is to be used for school zone speed enforcement during the entirety of a regularly scheduled school session.

