



*Advocacy Advance Team:  
A partnership of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and The League of American Bicyclists*

## **State-wide Rumble Strip Projects: Lessons Learned**

**Overview:** Many states provide information on planned and proposed roadwork projects on their state DOT website. However, this information is not always available in the most accessible or user-friendly format. Additionally, this information is listed under different names in different states. Some states provide a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) or a State Transportation Improvement Project (STIP). Still others provide this information in their “Letting Plans” or “Construction Letting Plan.” (Letting plans or Construction Letting Plans are the construction projects accepted by the state and offered to contractors).

It is important to familiarize yourself with the materials that are available online. However, a call to the DOT is a necessary next step, to gather specific information and to establish a professional relationship. We have found that DOT operators are often quite helpful in directing the information request to the department that handles rumble strip projects. The department, however, varies by state. For example, one will be directed to the communications department in Ohio and the engineering and design department in Missouri. While contacts vary from state to state, here is our recommended approach:

- **Start online** – Many DOT websites have planned roadwork projects available. Search for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), or “Letting” contracts.
- **Call** – Call your state DOT and ask for the department that deals directly with rumble strip implementation. This department will vary by state. Your state’s Bike/Ped Coordinator will be a helpful resource, but use them to identify the appropriate rumble strip contact – do not rely on the Bike/Ped Coordinator to handle the issue internally.
- **Ask** – Once you have reached a representative familiar with the issue, ask for a list of upcoming roadwork projects that will include the construction of new rumble strips.
- **Maintain relationships** – Make sure to keep the contact information of the representative you reach. In subsequent communications, refer back to this person and maintain this relationship, as it may prove efficient and productive.

Finally, while the name of your organization will likely indicate your true intentions, try not to convey your opposition to rumble strips, as this may be off-putting to a DOT representative who would otherwise be a helpful contact. When referencing rumble strip effects, frame the issue as “safety concerns and impacts for bicyclists,” as safety will be a shared concern.

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**Next Steps:** Once you have collected the upcoming rumble strip roadwork projects in your area, here are the

next steps we encourage you to take in this campaign:

1. Distribute the list of upcoming rumble strip projects to cyclists and advocates in your area
  - Find partners:
    - Local/regional tourism boards concerned about economic impact of lost money from cyclists
    - Neighborhood groups/civic associations concerned about noise from rumbled roads through their community
2. Determine what projects overlap with preferred bicycle routes
3. Consolidate responses into a single document and submit to your DOT
4. In collaboration with your state's Bike/Ped Coordinator, set up a meeting with DOT transportation officials to voice your concern and propose alternative plans
5. Reach out to active, involved advocates to take part in DOT meeting (especially ones with diverse experiences or interests)
6. Prepare talking points and presentation
  - Asks:
    - Do not rumble on narrow roads, lightly traveled roads or preferred bike routes
    - Bike-tolerable rumble strips on bike routes
    - Develop a bike-tolerable rumble strip policy for the state
7. Be prompt and courteous at meeting
8. Send thank-you letters from each participant
9. Follow up with requested information and materials
10. Hold officials accountable for any promises they made during the meeting
11. Publicize the results and follow up with your membership

For more information on meeting with elected officials, visit:

[http://action.aclu.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AP\\_meeting\\_with\\_officials](http://action.aclu.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AP_meeting_with_officials)

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