TRAFFIC CONFLICT TECHNIQUE AS A COMPLEMENTARY METHOD OF ROAD SAFETY MANAGEMENT

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Abstract: Road safety management has been traditionally based on “direct” safety indicators which have been based on road accident frequency. However it has also been known to suffer from a number of biases, mainly the regression-to-mean (Hauer, 1997). Therefore various “indirect” safety indicators and their applicability have been studied. Traffic conflicts were termed “the most direct of indirect safety measures” (Laureshyn, 2010).

There have been various traffic conflict techniques (TCTs) developed. However international calibration studies showed general agreement between various TCTs and their results have similar conclusions (Grayson, 1984).

Current knowledge shows that TCTs have a potential of becoming a complementary method of road safety management. It will not only be effective in terms of time and budget but also more human through complementing reactive character of accident studies with preventive measures based on results of conflict analyses (Risser and Muhlrad, 2012).

In 2011 Transport Research Centre started a national project aiming to develop a unified TCT applicable in Czech conditions. It should compare the current methods and yield a common methodology. The final TCT will be approved by Ministry of Transport and put into practice. The paper summarizes current experience and outlines the further possibilities in the Czech Republic.

Keywords: road safety, road safety management, safety indicator, traffic conflict