

VT Agency of Transportation: Wrong Way Driving Countermeasures

House Transportation Committee – February 3, 2026

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Wrong Way Driving VT Crash Statistics

Wrong-Way Driver Crashes 2021-2025	
Cumulative Percentage of Fatal and Injury Crashes	
% of Fatal Crashes	% of Injury Crashes
0.63%	0.05%

Wrong Way Driving National Research

- A substantial percentage of wrong way drivers are impaired
- Overrepresentation of drivers over the age of 70 or under the age of 25
- A majority of wrong way driving crashes that result in a fatality occur at night

Wrong Way Driving Countermeasures



Source: TAPCO WRONG-WAY BROCHURE

Passive Signage

- Static signage
- Enhanced in 2019 on I-89, I-91, I-93 and I-189
- Interstate speed limit signs will also include wrong way sign when replaced

Activated Signage

- Detection of wrong way drivers
- Activation of high visibility signage



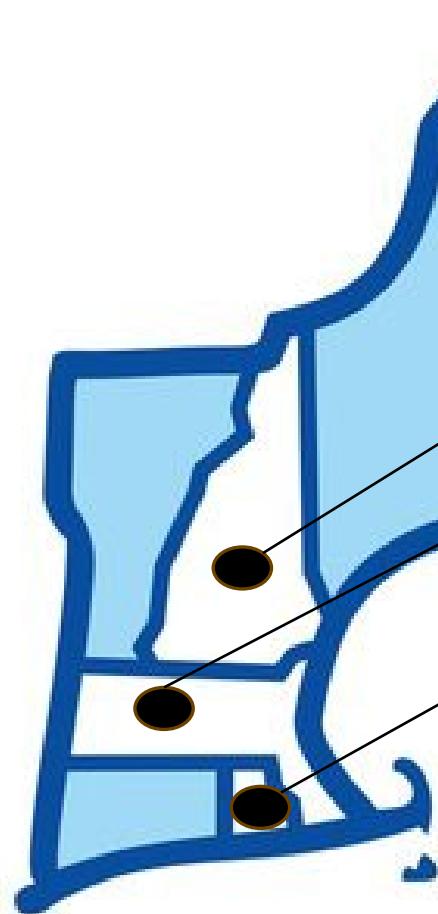
Infrastructure Improvements

- Ramp alignment
- Pavement markings
- Median island location and dimensions

Implementation Constraints

- Equipment costs
- Bi-annual equipment calibration and maintenance
 - Vendor contract
 - Temporary closure of ramp(s)
- Assists with only a portion of wrong way incidents
 - Improper U-Turn
 - Crossing median
 - Deliberate improper use

Regional Implementation Examples



- **New Hampshire – 0 Activated Systems**

- **Massachusetts – 16 Activated Systems**

- **Rhode Island – 33 Activated Systems**

- Installation costs ranged between **\$75,000 - \$100,000** per system
- Annual maintenance cost range between **\$4,500 - \$17,500** per system

COLCHESTER NH 028-1(31)

- Project is located at the Interstate 89 Exit 17 interchange and includes ramp and intersection improvements and bridge replacement
- Project serves to enhance safety and mobility, and address aging assets
- Construction began in 2024
- Project includes modifications to ramp locations and operations
- Project also includes the addition of two active wrong way driving systems



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System Features

- Passive signs installed
- Detection of activation zone
- Activated warning signs
- Allows for driver self correction

Installation Outcomes

- Obtain actual data regarding activation frequency
- Obtain installation cost information
- Understand annual maintenance requirements and associated costs
- Test and understand ability to integrate with existing systems



Source: TAPCO WRONG-WAY BROCHURE

Thank You!

For More Information Contact:

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