



## TRAFFIC CALMING EFFORTS KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The West Kootenays District of British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure sought a solution to help educate drivers about their speed as they enter communities.

The scenic West Kootenays are a major summer tourist destination in southeastern British Columbia, and home to 150,000 residents.

### Replacing an Inefficient Solution

West Kootenay District had used trailer-based radar speed signs for several years, but the units were bulky and difficult to position given the mountainous local terrain and narrow road shoulders. Moving the trailers was time-consuming for the District's staff.

Another problem: vandalism. Left overnight, the radar speed signs were sometimes damaged.

**“The smaller, portable Shield 15 is user-friendly traffic-calming technology.”**

Ryan Oakley, District Engineer  
West Kootenay District  
British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The District acquired five Shield 15 radar speed signs after determining they met its specifications and price requirements. The ATS Shield 15 provides durability, portability at 8.2 kg (18 lbs.), high visibility, and long battery life.

### Deployment to Wherever Speed Limit Awareness is Needed

Each District area manager is responsible for managing a Shield 15 and rotates it as needed between local communities, focusing on times when traffic patterns may change such as during summer, long weekends or at the start of school in September.

Portability is key to effectiveness, according to Oakley. “A flashing radar sign has more impact if it is moved frequently from location to location. People can ignore devices like this if left up for too long.” For quick redeployment, the Shield 15 clips onto existing speed limit signs in a couple of minutes, takes only a minute or so to program, and looks like an integral part of the signs.





“With the radar speed signs, we have had success in educating folks on the actual speeds they are choosing to drive as they enter communities. And this information helps them change their driving behavior.”

Ryan Oakley, West Kootenay District Engineer

### Support

“ATS has been quick and responsive on technical support,” according to Oakley.

### Outcomes

The primary mission for the Shield 15 in the West Kootenay District is to increase the driving public’s awareness of speed limits entering communities. With its flexibility, portability, and ease of deployment, the Shield 15 has met that goal, and the District has had success in improving driver behavior.