

Country Roads

Scotland's country roads account for approximately three quarters of all fatal road accidents and 58% of serious road accidents. Drivers often perceive these quieter roads as being safer than others and as a result can become complacent, leading to reduced concentration and excessive speed.

Country roads are usually of a variable quality and often contain sub-standard bends and cambers when compared with current roads standards. Drivers may misread the road layout, resulting in inappropriate speed for the road conditions, which can in turn lead to loss of control accidents.

South Lanarkshire Council have been tackling these issues, by implementing a programme of Route Action Plans on country roads which have been experiencing higher than average accident rates. Each route has been assessed and then treated with a combination of road markings, reflective road studs, upgraded road signs and anti-skid surfacing. The Route Action Plan programme has provided more consistent signing and road markings on our country roads to provide better driver information, leading to a dramatic reduction in accident rates.



Indeed, our accident records for the first five routes treated have indicated that on average, casualties have been reduced by 62% on these routes.

Between April 2008 and October 2009, 11 sections of road were improved to make them safer for all road users.

The routes improved were:-

Mauldslie Road/Brownlee Road, Carluke

A70 Douglas to M74

A70 Hyndford Road to A743 Ravenstruther

A723 Hamilton to Strathaven

A721 Carluke to Harelaw Roundabout

A72 Hazelbank to B7018 Kirkfieldbank

A70 Douglas to Glespin

A70 Glespin to Glenbuck

A71 Strathaven to Council to boundary

A71 Strathaven to Stonehouse

B758 Blantyre Farm Road

The work cost £2.5M in total and was funded in part by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Modern technology has also been used to good effect throughout the programme; with several sections of road being treated with solar powered vehicle activated warning signage. These signs light up to warn drivers when they approach a hazard such as a sharp bend or junction too quickly. South Lanarkshire Council was also the first council in Scotland to use solar powered road studs, which give better long distance visibility than conventional road studs. These provide drivers with enhanced warning of approaching hazards and have been used on three routes.



The use of this technology has allowed the Council to provide road users with a higher level of hazard warning, and has provided an innovative and environmentally sustainable solution.