

Speed Enforcement Automation in France: A Success Story

A French Recipe for International Hosts

Laurent CARNIS
UPE – IFSTTAR – AME/DEST

11-12 November 2013, Buenos Aires, Argentina



IFSTTAR



**Seminarios Internacionales de la
ASOCIACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA CARRETERA
(AIPCR-PIARC)**

Introduction

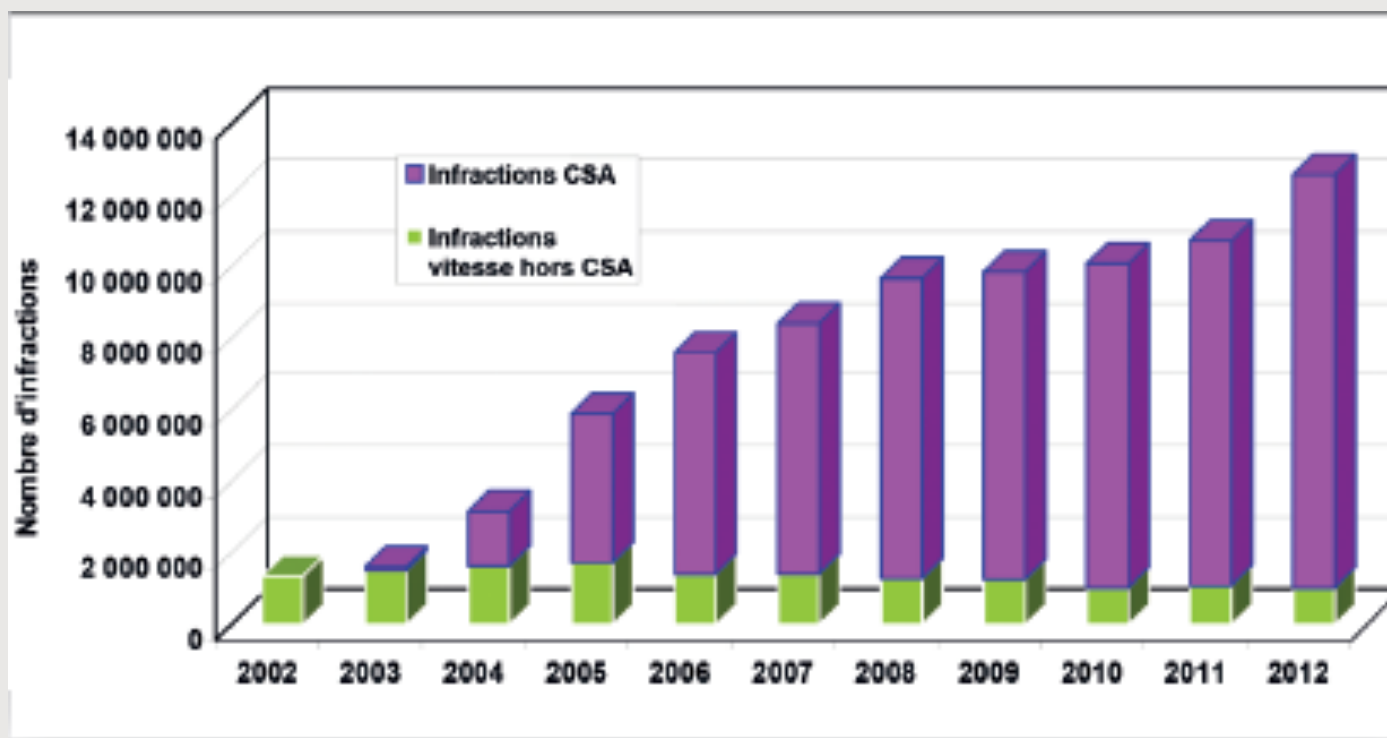


- **Avoiding 2 traps:**
 - The retrospective story: finding a consistent story
 - The ‘storytelling’ approach: selecting the convenient facts and rearranging them in a subjective way
- **Mobilizing theoretical and empirical knowledge:**
 - Elaborating a model for understanding successful public policy, building management capacities and thinking failures
 - Making predictions, elaborating expectations and institutional exports
- **‘Think global’ and ‘adapt locally’:**
 - General model and local contingencies



The French Success Story (1)

Evolution of speed tickets (2002-2012)

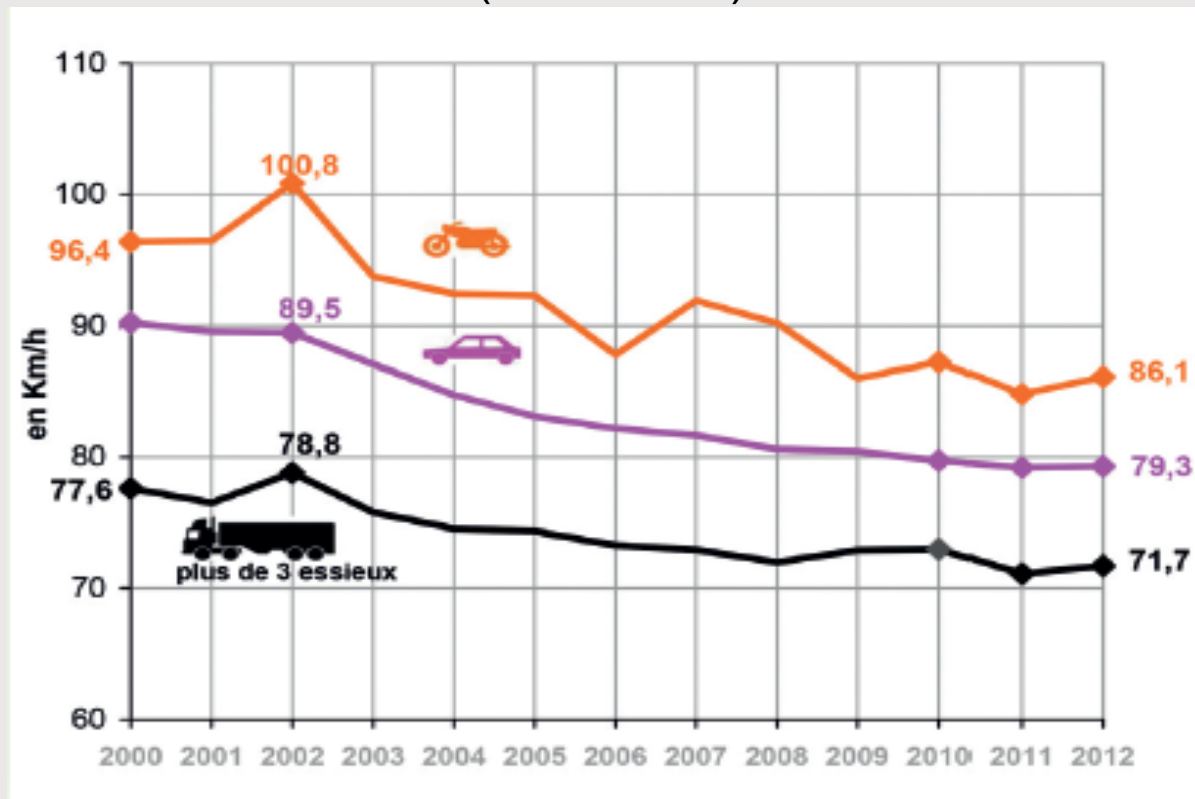


Source: ONISR, 2013



The French Success Story (2)

Evolution of the operating speed for the different categories of vehicles
(2000-2012)

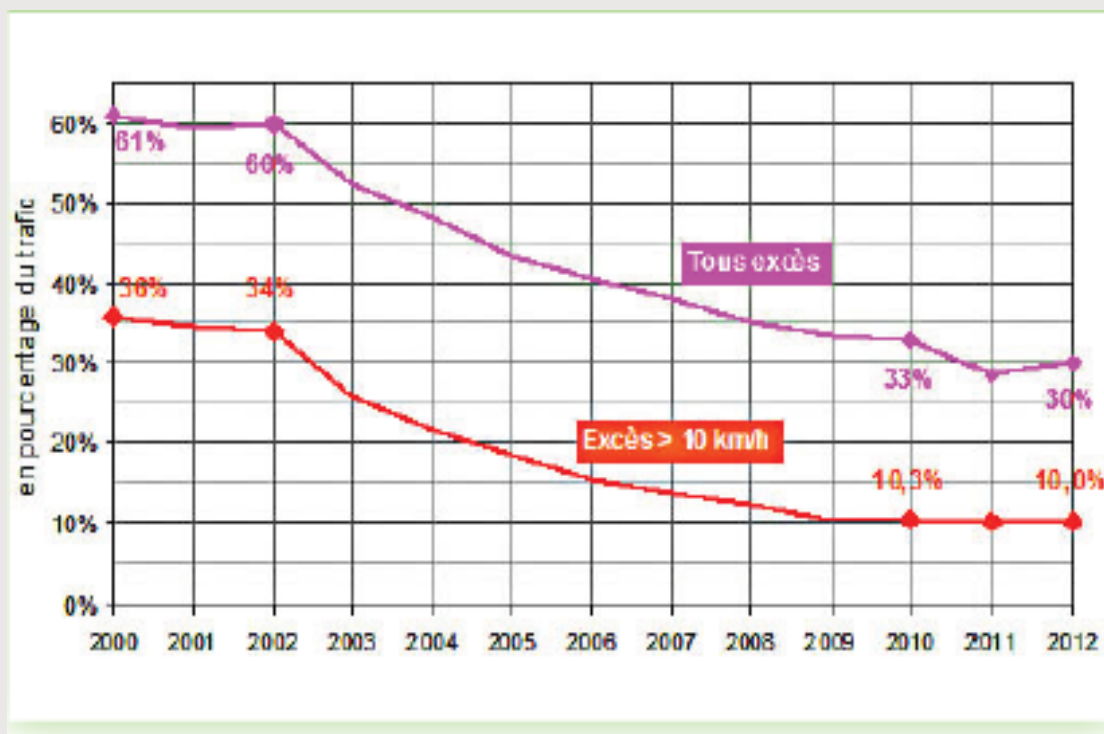


Source: ONISR, 2013



The French Success Story (3)

Evolution of speed excess rates (2000-2012)

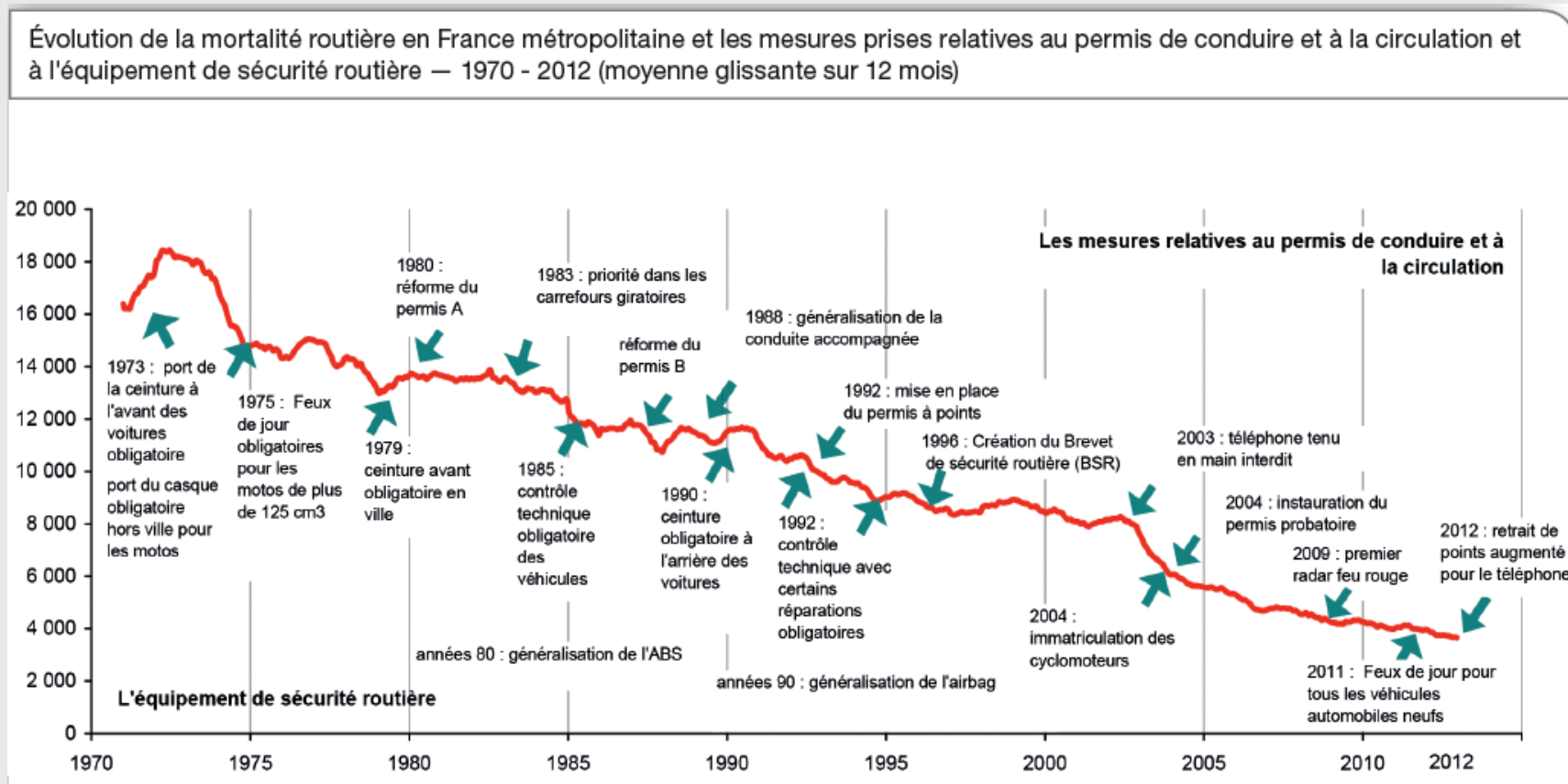


Source: ONISR, 2013



The French Success Story (4)

Evolution of road fatalities (1970-2012)



Source: ONISR, 2012



1st Ingredient: A Policy Window (1)



- Speed limits were randomly enforced
- A road safety situation which needs to be improved
- The importance of “emotions”: the role of special events
- Fighting the “Barbarians” of the road (JP Raffarin, Prime Minister)



1st Ingredient: A Policy Window (2)



- Automated speed enforcement at work in Europe: learning from past experiences
- Road safety intervention: an opportunity for the public decision maker



2nd Ingredient: A Preparatory Work

- Interdepartmental approach (Transports, Justice, Interior and Defence): a partnership approach
- A dedicated committee (a lead agency) in charge of the project: responsibilities are clearly defined
- High skills civil servants mobilized: planning the program
- Scientific and technical network at work: identifying the potential difficulties
- Experimenting before the setting up of the system



3rd Ingredient: The Political Commitment



- Road Safety as a top priority for the second term of President Chirac (14th July 2002)
- High level political commitment

- Political commitment from the different involved departments and cooperation between them

- Commitment at the local government level



4th Ingredient : Clear Strategy and Understandable by the Public (1)



- Punishing speed offenders and reducing road fatalities, but also educating the population through a preventive action

- Fixed and mobile speed cams



- Signed devices and conspicuous speed checks



4th ingredient : Clear Strategy and Understandable by the Public (2)



- Corridor logic for installing the speed cams (anywhere, anytime)
- Criteria for selecting the sites of control
- A progressive deployment
- Different technologies, a single program



5th Ingredient: Public Support and Public Consent



- Public support from the population at large
- Support from the road victim advocacy groups (LVR)
- Support from the media (TV, radio channels and press) which helped in warning the drivers that the rules changed!
- Communication is important



Potential Threats (1): A Political game Now!

- Political instrumentations are possible during electoral periods
- Opposition from some political parties or MP (Parliamentary mission in 2011)
- Role of lobbies (Olson's insights)
- Political intervention for influencing and convincing MPs



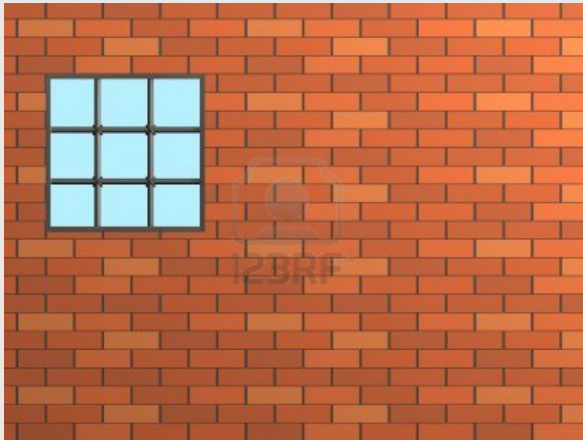
Potential Threats (2): Oppositions at Work



- Role of road user advocacy groups
- Role of lawyers for contesting some legal decisions or public actions
- Oppositions from the specialized press



Potential Threats (3): A too Successful Program !



- The cash cow argument (revenue purpose) against the safety objective
- Speed as an accident factor is contested!
- Speed enforcement as an attack against liberty and an inefficient policy
- A sustainable measure?



Conclusion

- A 10 year project with clear and incontestable success
- The « French speed cams story » is helpful in identifying or confirming some key elements for building strategies and management capacities
- Importance to take into consideration the dynamic dimension and the potential threats (opponent's coalition)
- Is it possible to import some key elements or is it an integrated-whole?
- How to export and adapt locally this model?



- Thank you for you attention

- Contact: laurent.carnis@ifsttar.fr

