



Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Greene County, Virginia

Designed by McKinney and Company after extensive research, this state-of-the-art 108,000 SF research facility for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) includes crash areas, three indoor runways, laboratories, and an outdoor test tract to simulate weather conditions.

One of the most significant design elements is a 320,000 pound, moveable, trackless impact barrier. This permits car-to-car testing (head-on, offset or 90 degree) or car-to-barrier testing at a common impact point at speeds of up to 55 mph (110 mph closing speed).



Recognized as the leading and largest indoor test facility in the U.S., it is equipped for more kinds of tests, and for producing higher quality photography of the tests, than virtually any other facility in the world.

McKinney and Company assisted the IIHS in selecting the site, providing site feasibility analysis, zoning assistance and coordinating all local government approvals and reviews. McKinney's design research required an understanding of physics to design the immovable, yet portable impact barrier. McKinney staff visited crash testing facilities around the world to develop a better understanding of the needs of this type of facility. The result is a facility and a testing capability that has enabled the IIHS to become the research-based authority to influence highway safety issues and motor vehicle design.

Often cited and seen on numerous network news magazines, the Vehicle Research Center of the IIHS has provided the organization with a facility that will allow them to expand their mission focus on scientific research of the three primary factors associated with motor vehicle crashes - human, vehicle and environment - and on the interventions to reduce the losses that can occur before, during and after crashes.

