

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

SPEED HUMP

Speed humps are rounded raised areas placed across the road. They are generally 12 feet long in the direction of travel, 3¼ to 3¾ inches high, and parabolic in shape, and have a design speed of 15 to 20 mph. They are usually constructed with asphalt concrete and have a taper on each side to allow unimpeded drainage between the hump and curb. When placed on a street with rolled curbs, bollards may be placed at the ends of the speed hump to discourage vehicles from veering outside of the travel lane to avoid the device. Speed humps are not installed on emergency response or bus routes.

**Advantages**

- Relatively inexpensive
- Relatively easy for bicyclists to cross if taper is designed appropriately
- No loss of on-street parking
- Very effective in slowing travel speeds

Disadvantages

- Causes a "rough ride" for all drivers, and can cause severe pain for people with certain skeletal disabilities
- Emergency vehicles forced to travel at slower speeds
- Increased noise to adjacent residences
- Aesthetics

SPEED CUSHION

The speed cushion is a variation on the speed hump with wheel cut-outs to accommodate the wheelbase of fire trucks and buses so they can pass through without slowing. For standard size vehicles to pass, at least one set of wheels must travel over the cushion. Each speed cushion is typically 6.5 feet wide, 6.67 feet long in the direction of travel, and 3 inches high. Typically, a set of three or four cushions are installed depending on the width of the street. The design speed is 15 to 20 mph. They are usually constructed of asphalt concrete and have a taper on each side to allow unimpeded drainage between the cushion and curb. When placed on a street with rolled curbs, bollards may be placed at the ends of the speed cushion to discourage vehicles from veering outside of the travel lane to avoid the device. Speed cushions are installed on emergency response and bus routes.

**Advantages**

- Relatively inexpensive
- No loss of on-street parking
- Very effective in slowing travel speeds

Disadvantages

- Large (non-standard) vehicles can avoid the cushion by passing through the cut-outs
- Causes a "rough ride" for all drivers, and can cause severe pain for people with certain skeletal disabilities
- Increased noise to adjacent residences
- Aesthetics