

# SPEED HUMPS, TABLES, AND CUSHIONS

## Purpose

Reduce motor vehicle speeds.

## Description

Speed humps are paved ramps measuring 3- to 4-inches high that extend the full width of the street. Speed tables are wider or have a flat top. Speed cushions have wheel cutouts to allow large vehicles to pass through unaffected.

## Estimated Cost



- Town Center Boulevards
- Town Center Streets
- Neighborhood Connectors
- Neighborhood Streets
- Neighborhood Yield Streets
- Industrial Streets

## Safety Benefits

- Reduce motor vehicle speeds.
- May reduce the frequency and severity of crashes for all road users.

## Applicable Locations

- Vertical traffic control measures such as speed humps, tables, and cushions are best used on streets with lower motor vehicle speeds and volumes.
- Useful in areas where traffic calming is needed, such as near schools.

## Applicable Street Types

- Downtown Boulevards
- Downtown Streets



## Expected Crash Reduction

A definitive crash reduction estimate has not been established. Research suggests speed humps, tables, and cushions reduce crash severity.<sup>61</sup>

## Design Guidance

- Install speed humps perpendicular to the flow of traffic.
- Speed humps and tables can be paved or painted to warn motorists and to be visually pleasing.
- Speed humps can be placed periodically along a route to reinforce speed control.
- Well-designed speed humps, tables, and cushions allow vehicles and people riding bikes to proceed over the device at the intended speed with minimal discomfort.
- Do not install on the curve of the roadway.

## Considerations

- Consider priority and delay of emergency response vehicles, truck or public transit use of the street, street type, and effectiveness of slowing vehicles versus bicyclist comfort level.



- A pedestrian crossing can be provided on the flat portion of a speed table – also referred to as a “raised crossing.” See raised crossing treatment in this toolkit for more details.
- May create drainage problems.
- Many speed humps in a succession may cause problems for buses.
- Investigate feasibility of other traffic calming measures first. Speed humps are typically a last-resort treatment.

## Systemic Safety Potential

Best suited as a spot treatment.

## Additional Information

- PEDSAFE Countermeasures Guide
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- AASHTO Guide for the design of Bicycle Facilities

