TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING DIVISION
FACT SHEETS

Speed Humps

What is a speed hump and why are they used on some streets?

What are typical effects of speed humps?

What are some concerns with the use of speed humps?

What is a speed hump and why are they used on some streets?

Speed humps are physical traffic calming treatments used on public two-lane local residential streets and minor collectors to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic, improve safety and create more user-friendly neighborhood streets for pedestrians and bicyclists.

They consist of raised areas of pavement 12 to 14 feet in length and approximately 3 inches high with a parabolic profile. They include longitudinal slots (cushion design) that accommodate the wide wheelbase of emergency vehicles, allowing them to pass through with minimal impact to their speed. They are typically spaced 200 to 500 feet apart and have special markings and warning signs in advance of each hump.

Speed humps themselves are considered roadway design features, and not traffic control devices governed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). However, speed hump installations do have traffic control devices associated with them (i.e., signs and pavement markings).

The application of speed humps is governed by the city's Neighborhood Transportation Management Program (NTMP) available at https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Residents/Parking-Transportation/Transportation-Engineering. Speed humps are just one NTMP measure the city uses to address concerns related to speeding, cut-through traffic and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists on neighborhood streets. A request for an NTMP study, including one for speed hump installations, requires a petition signed by at least 10 residents along the street(s) in question stating their agreement with the request.

What are typical effects of speed humps?

Speed humps have been found to have the following traffic calming effects:

- Average speed reductions of 20 to 25 percent between humps.
- Typical volume reductions of 20 percent.
- Average crash rate reductions of 13 to 45 percent.
- No significant impact on non-emergency access (for cushion design).

What are some concerns with the use of speed humps?

Concerns include the following:

- Objections to aesthetics of hump and associated signs and pavement markings.
- Increased noise at hump due to vehicle rocking and acceleration/deceleration.
- Possible negative effects on property values.
- Ongoing maintenance cost of humps and associated signs and pavement markings.

Want More Information?

This flyer is for general purposes only. For more information, please contact the city of Las Vegas Department of Public Works, Transportation Engineering Division at (702) 229-6331 or https://seeclickfix.com/las-vegas

NOTE: The **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)** is used throughout the country as the standard by which traffic control decisions are made. Nevada Revised Statute 484A.430 requires its use for placement of all traffic control devices. Find the ***complete*** **MUTCD** at https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/ or scan the QR code.

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