



CITY OF LOWELL

TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

November 2022

INTRODUCTION

Traffic Calming is one measure available to the City of Lowell to address undesirable traffic characteristics on City streets. In addition to police enforcement and public education, traffic calming techniques can be used to moderate excessively high traffic speeds. The development of a traffic calming program and implementation guidelines will allow the City of Lowell to consider and implement traffic calming effectively and consistently. This traffic calming program document serves as the basis for effectively implementing traffic calming measures on the City of Lowell road network.

DEFINITION

The number of residents expressing concern about the level of speeding and cut-through traffic on local residential streets is increasing. In response to the public's concern for the safety and livability of their neighborhoods, the City has developed this program as a guide for implementing neighborhood traffic calming projects in the City of Lowell.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) defines traffic calming as “the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.”

Traffic calming objectives include:

- achieving slow speeds for motor vehicles
- reducing collision frequency and severity
- increasing the safety and the perception of safety for non-motorized users of the street(s)
- reducing the need for police enforcement
- enhancing the street environment
- preserve neighborhood character and livability
- increasing access for all modes of transportation
- reducing cut-through motor vehicle traffic

This program will identify improvements that meet these goals through a collective understanding among the residents and City staff of neighborhood traffic issues and concerns, as well as potential solutions. This program provides a set of factors for the initiation, preparation, and completion of a traffic calming project. It has been developed in recognition of the experiences and practices of other jurisdictions, and reflects the best practices in traffic engineering. The process of this program will explicitly incorporate public participation in identifying local traffic problems, and involvement in the process of finding and implementing a preferred solution to the identified problem.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

The City of Lowell prioritizes convenient, safe and accessible streets for all transportation users. As traffic safety issues arise, a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program provides a mechanism for neighborhood groups to work with the City to find solutions. It is intended to ensure that neighborhood stakeholders are provided the opportunity to be involved. The following details the

steps involved in participating in the program and the levels of traffic calming that can be implemented to address neighborhood-level traffic concerns.

Generally, traffic calming will be considered appropriate on local and collector streets under the jurisdiction of the City of Lowell. Arterials and roadways under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or the Department of Conservation and Recreation will not be considered for this program. It is not the intent of traffic calming to require drivers to slow down well below the speed limit. Motorists should be able to move through a corridor while safely sharing the roadway with bicyclists and pedestrians. There are certain traffic calming measures that may not be applicable on roadways with higher speed limits. Considerations are also made for emergency access, transit routes and roadway plowing operations.

Staff estimates that the traffic calming program process, following the receipt of a neighborhood petition, will take approximately six to twelve months. Some solutions require the elimination of on-street parking.

Application/Project Initiation

Residents with concerns about neighborhood vehicular traffic speeds or cut-through traffic volumes should submit a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Request Form via the City's website. An upload option is available so that supporting information such as letters or photos regarding the area of concern may be attached. If a larger public engagement process is determined to be necessary, the Request Form submitted will start that process. The form requires the petitioner to outline the existing traffic issues, a proposed study area and provide neighborhood support letters.

Requests may also be initiated by City Council motions referred to the City Council Transportation Subcommittee, Department of Planning and Development project planning, regular Department of Public Works street maintenance, or a Planning Board condition of approval.

City Staff will conduct a brief preliminary assessment to determine if the location is appropriate for traffic calming measures. If the request can be handled with an administrative resolution, the Department of Planning and Development will coordinate with the Lowell Police Department and Department of Public Works to implement the appropriate traffic control.

The Transportation Engineer will update the City Council Transportation Subcommittee monthly on applications that have been received. Requests will be evaluated on a rolling basis.

Neighborhood Data Collection

Data collection is an important step in the educational and enforcement aspects of the traffic calming program. The information serves as a good "snap shot" of how drivers are behaving as they travel through the neighborhood in the existing condition. Information may be collected on vehicle speeds and volumes, crash history, pedestrian and bicycle volumes, sidewalk conditions, proximity to a school or other pedestrian destination, stopping sight distances, drainage needs, emergency access, designated transit routes, and the adjacent environment to determine what factors are influencing vehicular traffic within the area.

Staff Evaluation

Based on the assessment and data collection, City Staff will determine what level of traffic calming measures are appropriate and feasible. Traffic calming measures have advantages and disadvantages and address different goals and outcomes. Streets identified for potential traffic calming projects will be prioritized based on the extent of speeding, collision history, number of nearby pedestrian generators, types of facility users, and available funding. Streets at the top of the prioritization list will be more likely to receive funding and will be addressed first.

Traffic calming measures that may be employed include both Community-oriented (Non-infrastructure) and Physical Measures. Level I Community-oriented Measures are appropriate when the 85th percentile recorded speeds are below 5 mph over the posted or statutory speed limit. Level II Physical Measures are appropriate when the 85th percentile recorded speeds are between 5 and 10 mph over the posted or statutory speed limit. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85% of the vehicles are traveling at or below over the course of a day.

Level I - Community Oriented Traffic Calming Measures

The following measures focus on bringing the community together to raise awareness and educate drivers that they are in a neighborhood where there is a strong desire for them to drive responsibly.

Level I measures may include the following:

- Neighborhood traffic education
- Neighborhood pledge program
- Neighborhood signs
- Speed display unit (radar feedback signs)
- Targeted police enforcement
- Crosswalk improvements
- Striping narrow lanes
- Restricted movement signs
- Other regulatory or warning signs

Level II - Physical Traffic Calming Measures

The following physical traffic calming devices include horizontal deflection or vertical deflection measures. Horizontal deflection measures create an obstacle in the street that removes the straight line pathway, causing motorists to slow while navigating the measure. Vertical deflection creates a change in the height of the street that requires the motorists to slow to maintain an acceptable level of comfort. Level II measures may include the following:

- Gateway Treatments
- Addition of on-street parking
- Median island
- Curb extension
- Chicane (a curb bump-out creating an artificial curve)
- Choker (a curb bump-out creating a one-lane section of roadway)

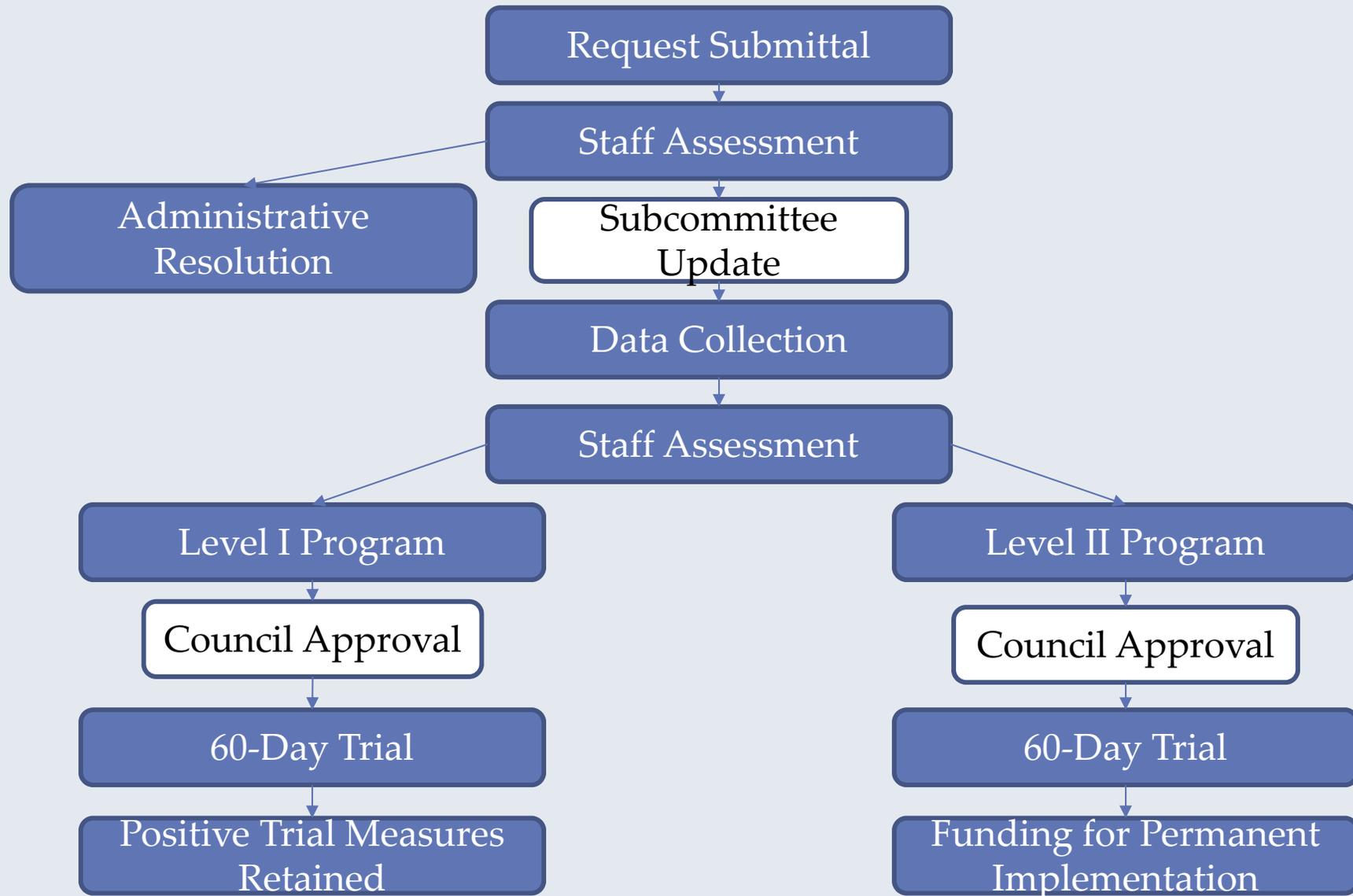
- Mini-roundabout (a small diameter circular island placed in an intersection)
- Speed hump
- Speed cushion
- Raised crosswalk
- Raised intersection

The Transportation Engineer and DPD Staff will recommend traffic calming measures. The recommendation will be reported to the City Council Transportation Subcommittee, the initial petitioner, the primary Neighborhood Association contact, and posted on the City's website to notify residents and solicit comments. Neighborhood Associations and can request the attendance of City Staff at neighborhood meetings to generally discuss the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and answer questions. Staff will collect comments received within a 30-day timeframe and report results to the City Council Transportation Subcommittee as the final step in the process. Any measures requiring a 60-day Trial vote will be recommended by the City Council Transportation Subcommittee and approved by the City Council.

Post-Implementation Evaluation and Funding

When a 60-day Trial period is implemented, City Staff will evaluate the effects of the traffic calming project at the end of the trial period. Information may be collected on vehicle speeds and volumes, and the initial petitioner will be contacted for resident feedback. If any unacceptable impacts are identified, the Trial will be concluded and any temporary measures will be removed. Should positive impacts be identified, funding for permanent implementation will be considered utilizing available funds received from the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Fund for Per-Ride Assessments (Transportation Network Company Division of the Department of Public Utilities).

Flow Chart



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Introduction

Purpose:

The purpose of these fact sheets is to provide transportation practitioners, public agencies, and the general public general facts and information regarding the most popular traffic calming measures used today. ITE and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently produced a Traffic Calming ePrimer (web link shown below), which documents the results of several decades of traffic calming experience in the United States, presenting a thorough review of current traffic calming practices. These fact sheets summarize information presented in the ePrimer.

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Traffic Calming Measures Included:

A **horizontal deflection** hinders the ability of a motorist to drive in a straight path by creating a horizontal shift in the roadway. This shift reduces the ability of a motorist to maintain speed while comfortably navigating the measure.

- Lateral shift
- Chicane
- Realigned Intersection
- Traffic Circle
- Small Modern Roundabout/Mini-Roundabout
- Roundabout

A **vertical deflection** creates a change in the height of the roadway that typically forces a motorist to slow down to maintain an acceptable level of comfort.

- Speed Hump
- Speed Cushion
- Speed Table
- Raised Crosswalk
- Raised Intersection

A **street width reduction** narrows the width of a vehicle travel lane or roadway, so a motorist likely needs to slow the vehicle to maintain an acceptable level of comfort and safety. The measure can also reduce the distance required for pedestrian crossings, reducing exposure to vehicular conflicts.

- Corner Extension/Bulb-Out
- Choker
- Median Island
- On-Street Parking
- Road Diet

A **routing restriction** prevents particular vehicle movements at an intersection and is intended to eliminate some portions of cut-through traffic.

- Diagonal Diverter
- Closure
- Median Barrier/Forced Turn Island

Measures Not Included:

A variety of other measures have been part of traffic calming efforts in jurisdictions throughout the United States. These measures are not included in these fact sheets for a variety of reasons, including:

- The measure is a standard traffic control measure typically used for improving traffic flow and has a secondary benefit for non-motorist safety
- The measure produces only a temporary benefit
- The measure requires additional enforcement beyond typical activities
- The measure has minimal or no measurable effect on vehicle speed or non-motorist safety

The excluded measures include:

- Signs
- Pavement Markings
- Gateways
- Corner Radius Reductions
- Textured Pavements and/or Rumble Strips
- Streetscaping/Landscaping

Although these fact sheets focus on mostly physical measures to calm traffic, non-physical measures can also be effective as part of traffic calming efforts. For example, education and enforcement efforts have long been used as part of neighborhood traffic calming programs and should continue to be considered as either supplements to self-enforcing physical means or as precursors to physical measures.

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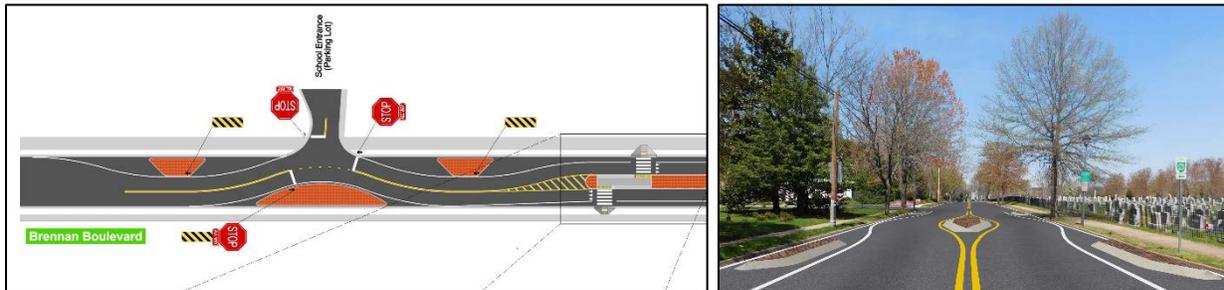
Chicane

Description:

- A series of alternating curves or lane shifts that force a motorist to steer back and forth instead of traveling a straight path
- Also called deviations, serpentines, reversing curves, or twists

Applications:

- Appropriate for mid-block locations but can be an entire block if it is relatively short
- Most effective with equivalent low volumes on both approaches
- Appropriate speed limit is typically 35 mph or less
- Typically, a series of at least three landscaped curb extensions
- Can use alternating on-street parking from one side of a street to the other
- Applicable on one-lane one-way and two-lane two-way roadways
- Can be used with either open or closed (i.e. curb and gutter) cross-section
- Can be used with or without a bicycle facility



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Chicanes may still permit speeding by drivers cutting straight paths across the center line
- Minimize relocation of drainage features
- May force bicyclists to share travel lanes with motor vehicles
- Maintain sufficient width for ease of emergency vehicles and truck throughput

Potential Impacts:

- No effect on access, although heavy trucks may experience challenges when negotiating
- Limited data available on impacts to speed and crash risk
- Street sweeping may need to be done manually
- Minimal anticipated volume diversion from street
- May require removal of some on-street parking
- Provides opportunity for landscaping
- Unlikely to require utility relocation
- Not a preferred crosswalk location
- Bus passengers may experience discomfort due to quick successive lateral movements

Emergency Response Issues:

- Appropriate along primary emergency vehicle routes

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Reported costs range between \$8,000 and \$25,000

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Choker

Description:

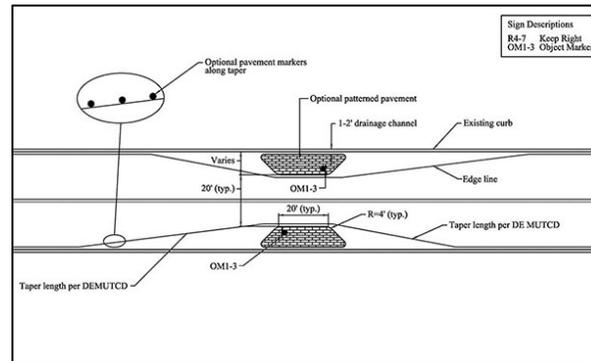
- Curb extension is a lateral horizontal extension of the sidewalk into the street, resulting in a narrower roadway section
- If located at an intersection, it is called a corner extension or a bulb-out
- If located midblock, it is referred to as a choker
- Narrowing of a roadway through the use of curb extensions or roadside islands

Applications:

- Can be created by a pair of curb extensions, often landscaped
- Encourages lower travel speeds by reducing motorist margin of error
- One-lane choker forces two-way traffic to take turns going through the pinch point
- If the pinch point is angled relative to the roadway, it is called an angled choker
- Can be located at any spacing desired
- May be suitable for a mid-block crosswalk
- Appropriate for arterials, collectors, or local streets



(Source: City of An Arbor, Michigan)



(Source: Delaware DOT)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calmm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Only applicable for mid-block locations
- Can be used on a one-lane one-way and two-lane two-way street
- Most easily installed on a closed-section road (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Applicable with or without dedicated bicycle facilities
- Applicable on streets with, and can protect, on-street parking
- Appropriate for any speed limit
- Appropriate along bus routes
- Typical width of 6 to 8 feet; offset from through traffic by approximately 1.5 feet
- Locations near streetlights are preferable
- Length of choker island should be at least 20 feet

Potential Impacts:

- Encourages lower speeds by funneling it through the pinch point
- Can result in shorter pedestrian crossing distances if a mid-block crossing is provided
- May force bicyclists and motor vehicles to share the travel lane
- May require some parking removal
- May require relocation of drainage features and utilities

Emergency Response Issues:

- Retains sufficient width for ease of use for emergency vehicles

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Between \$1,500 and \$20,000, depending on length and width of barriers

Corner Extension/Bulb-Out

Description:

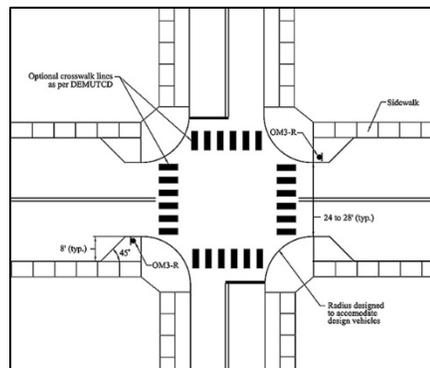
- Horizontal extension of the sidewalk into the street, resulting in a narrower roadway section
- If located at a mid-block location, it is typically called a choker

Applications:

- When combined with on-street parking, a corner extension can create protected parking bays
- Effective method for narrowing pedestrian crossing distances and increase pedestrian visibility
- Appropriate for arterials, collectors, or local streets
- Can be used on one-way and two-way streets
- Installed only on closed-section roads (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Appropriate for any speed, provided an adequate shy distance is provided between the extension and the travel lane
- Adequate turning radii must be provided to use on bus routes



(Source: James Barrera, Horrocks, New Mexico)



(Source: Delaware DOT)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Effects on vehicle speeds are limited due to lack of deflection
- Must check drainage due to possible gutter realignment
- Major utility relocation may be required, especially drainage inlets
- Typical width between 6 and 8 feet
- Typical offset from travel lane at least 1.5 feet
- Should not extend into bicycle lanes

Potential Impacts:

- Effects on vehicle speeds are limited due to lack of deflection
- Can achieve greater speed reduction if combined with vertical deflection
- Smaller curb radii can slow turning vehicles
- Shorter pedestrian crossing distances can improve pedestrian safety
- More pedestrian waiting areas may become available
- May require some parking removal adjacent to intersections

Emergency Response Issues:

- Retains sufficient width for ease of emergency-vehicle access
- Shortened curb radii may require large turning vehicles to cross centerlines

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost between \$1,500 and \$20,000, depending on length and width of barriers

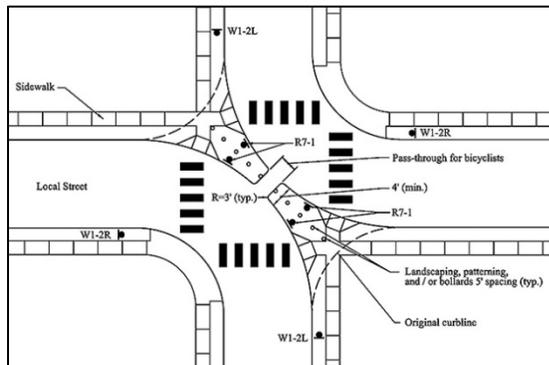
Diagonal Diverter

Description:

- Barriers placed diagonally across four-legged intersections, blocking through movements
- Sometimes called full diverters or diagonal road closures

Applications:

- Typically applied only after other measures are deemed ineffective or inappropriate
- Provisions are available to make diverters passable for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Often used in sets to make travel through neighborhoods more circuitous



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)



(Source: PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Possible legal issues associated with closing public streets (e.g., business and/or emergency access)
- Can only be placed at intersections
- Can be used on both one-way and two-way streets
- Typically found on closed-section roads (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Typical maximum appropriate speed limit is 25 mph
- Maintain drainage as necessary to mitigate potential flooding
- Corner radii should be designed to allow full-lane width for passing motor vehicle traffic
- SU-30 default design vehicle
- Appropriate signing and pavement markings needed on approaches
- Openings for pedestrians and bicyclists should allow movement between all intersection legs
- Barriers may consist of landscaped islands, walls, gates, side-by-side bollards, or any other obstruction that leave an opening smaller than the width of a typical passenger car

Potential Impacts:

- Concern regarding impacts to emergency response, street network connectivity, and capacity
- Should consider traffic diversion patterns and associated impacts
- No significant impacts on vehicle speeds beyond the approach to the diverter
- Not appropriate for bus transit routes
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle safety

Emergency Response Issues:

- Should not be used on roads that provide access to hospitals or primary emergency services
- Restricts emergency vehicle access through intersections
- Can be designed to allow emergency vehicle access with removable, or breakaway delineators or bollards, gates, mountable curbs, etc.

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Typical cost of \$6,000 for diverter with limited drainage modifications

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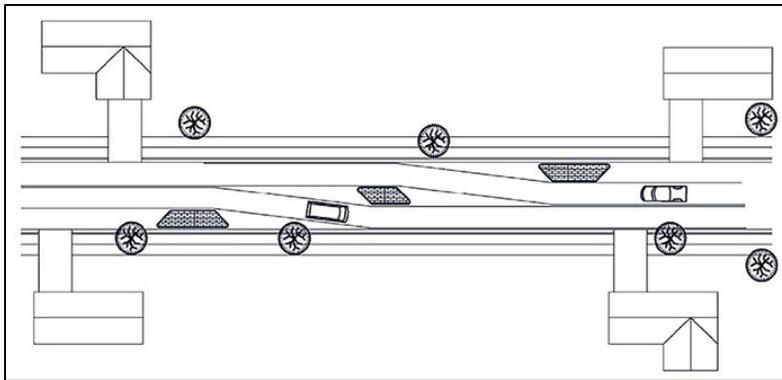
Lateral Shift

Description:

- Realignment of an otherwise straight street that causes travel lanes to shift in at least one direction
- A chicane is a variation of a lateral shift that shifts alignments more than once

Applications:

- Appropriate for local, collector, or arterial roadways
- Appropriate for one-lane one-way and two-lane two-way streets
- Appropriate on roads with or without dedicated bicycle facilities
- Maximum appropriate speed limit is typically 35 mph
- Appropriate along bus transit routes



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)



(Source: Google Street View)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Typically separates opposing traffic through the shift with the aid of a raised median
- Applicable only to mid-block locations
- Can be installed on either open- or closed-section (i.e. curb and gutter) roads
- Location near streetlights preferred
- May require drainage feature relocation
- Should not require utility relocation

Potential Impacts:

- Without islands, motorists could cross the centerline to drive the straightest path possible
- No impact on access
- May require removal of some on-street parking
- Limited data available on impacts on speed, volume diversions, and crash risk
- Provides opportunities for landscaping
- Can provide locations for pedestrian crosswalks

Emergency Response Issues:

- Appropriate along primary emergency vehicle routes or on streets with access to hospitals/emergency medical services, provided vehicles can straddle the street centerline

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Reported costs range between \$8,000 and \$25,000

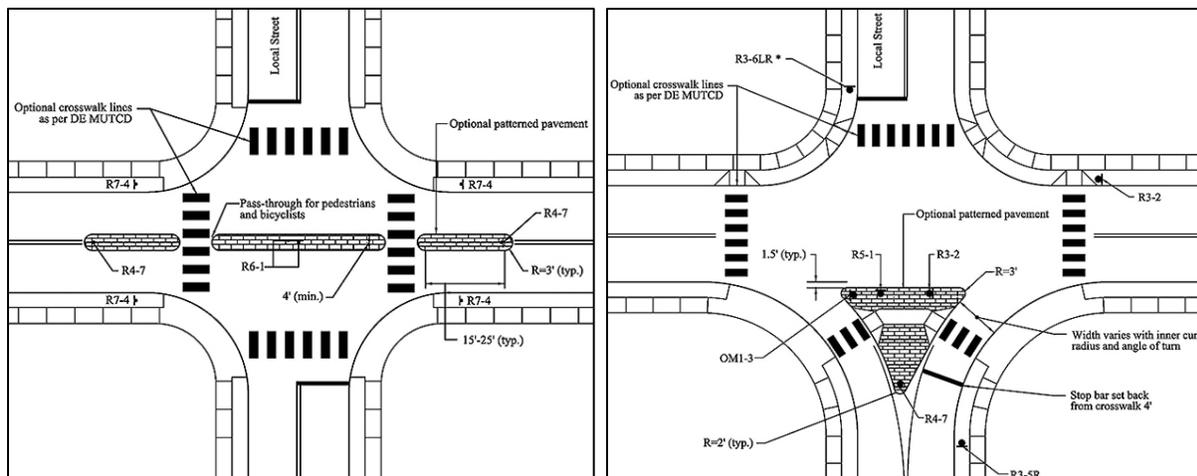
Median Barrier/Forced Turn Island

Description:

- Raised islands along the centerline of a street and continuing through an intersection that block the left-turn movement from all intersection approaches and the through movement from the cross street; also called median diverter, intersection barrier, intersection diverter, and island diverter
- Raised island that forces a right turn is called a forced turn island

Applications:

- For use on arterial or collector roadways to restrict access to minor roads or local streets and/or to narrow lane widths
- Typically applied only after other measures have failed or been deemed inappropriate/ineffective
- Barriers are made passable for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Often used in sets to make travel to/through neighborhoods more circuitous



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Potential legal issues associated with blocking a public street (e.g., business/emergency access)
- Placed on major roads on approaches to and across intersections with minor roads
- Should extend beyond the intersection to discourage improper/illegal turn movements
- Barriers may consist of landscaped islands, mountable features, walls, gates, side-by-side bollards, or any other obstruction that leave an opening smaller than the width of a passenger car

Potential Impacts:

- May divert traffic volumes to other parallel and/or crossing streets
- May require removal or shortening of on-street parking zones on approaches/departures
- May impact access to properties adjacent to intersection
- No significant impacts on vehicle speeds beyond the approaches to intersection

Emergency Response Issues:

- Restricts emergency vehicle access using minor street
- Can be designed to allow emergency vehicle access

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost between \$1,500 and \$20,000, depending on length and width of barriers

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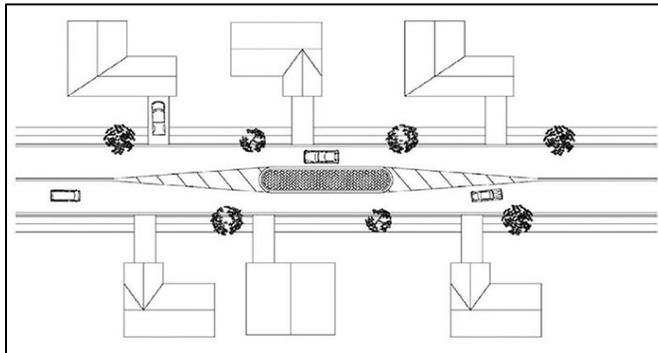
Median Island

Description:

- Raised island located along the street centerline that narrows the travel lanes at that location
- Also called median diverter, intersection barrier, intersection diverter, and island diverter

Applications:

- For use on arterial, collector, or local roads
- Can often double as a pedestrian/bicycle refuge islands if a cut in the island is provided along a marked crosswalk, bike facility, or shared-use trail crossing
- If placed through an intersection, considered a median barrier



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)



(Source: James Barrera, Horrocks, New Mexico)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Potential legal issues associated with blocking a public street (e.g., business or emergency access)
- Barriers may consist of landscaped islands, mountable facilities, walls, gates, side-by-side bollards, or any other obstruction that leave an opening smaller than the width of a passenger car
- Can be placed mid-block or on the approach to an intersection
- Typically installed on a closed-section roadway (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Can be applied on roads with or without sidewalks and/or dedicated bicycle facilities
- Maximum appropriate speed limits vary by locale
- Typically not appropriate near sites that attract large combination trucks

Potential Impacts:

- May impact access to properties adjacent to islands
- No significant impact on vehicle speeds beyond the island
- Little impact on traffic volume diversion
- Safety can be improved without substantially increasing delay
- Shortens pedestrian crossing distances
- Bicyclists may have to share vehicular travel lanes near the island
- May require removal of some on-street parking
- May require relocation of drainage features and utilities

Emergency Response Issues:

- Appropriate along primary emergency vehicle roads or street that provides access to hospitals/emergency medical services

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost between \$1,500 and \$10,000, depending on length and width of island

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On-Street Parking

Description:

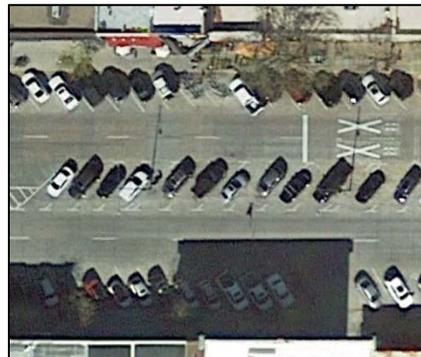
- Allocation of paved space to parking
- Narrows road travel lanes and increases side friction to traffic flow
- Can apply on one or both sides of roadway
- Can be either parallel or angled, but parallel is generally preferred for maximized speed reduction

Applications:

- High likelihood of acceptability for nearly all roadway functional classifications and street functions
- More appropriate in urban or suburban settings
- Can be combined with other traffic calming measures
- Can apply alternating sides of street for chicane effect
- Can combine with curb extensions for protected parking, including landscaping for beautification
- Can apply using time-of-day restrictions to maximize throughput during peak periods
- Can be used on one-way or two-way streets
- Preferable to have a closed-section road (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Appropriate along bus transit routes



(Source: PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program)



(Source: Google Earth, Fort Collins, CO)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Appropriate distance needed between travel lane and parking lane
- Impact is directly affected by demand; must have parked vehicles present to be effective
- If used for chicane effect, must verify parking demand to ensure that majority of spaces are occupied when effect is desired most during the day; can use parallel, angled, or combination
- Should not be considered near traffic circles nor roundabouts
- Should not be applied along median island curbs
- For lower-demand locations, can counteract negligible impact with curb extensions or other road-narrowing features

Potential Impacts:

- Can be blocked in by snow during plowing operations; required vehicle removal
- May limit road user visibility and sight distance at driveways/alleys/intersections
- Can put bicyclists at risk of colliding with car doors
- May be impacted if other traffic calming measures are considered or implemented
- Provides buffer between moving vehicles and pedestrian facilities

Emergency Response Issues:

- Preferred by emergency responders to most other traffic calming measures
- Requires consideration of design of parking lanes near hydrants and other emergency features

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Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Approximately \$6000 or less (factor of design specifics and length of application); can be much higher

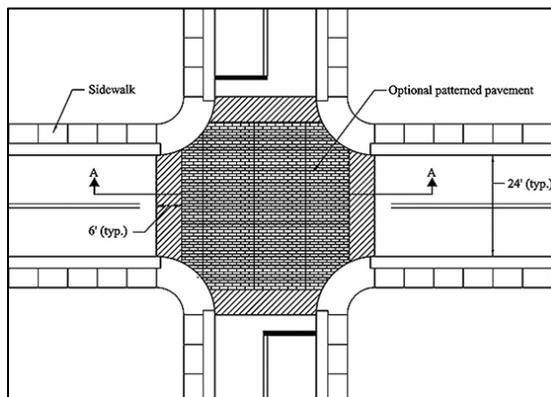
Raised Intersection

Description:

- Flat raised areas covering entire intersections, with ramps on all approaches and often with brick or other textured materials on the flat section and ramps
- Sometimes referred to as raised junctions, intersection humps, or plateaus

Applications:

- Intersections of collector, local, and residential streets
- Typically installed at signalized or all-way stop controlled intersections with high pedestrian crossing demand
- Works well with curb extensions and textured crosswalks
- Often part of an area-wide traffic calming scheme involving both intersecting streets in densely-developed urban areas



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)



(Source: Chuck Huffine, Phoenix AZ)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Used at intersections with a maximum speed limit of 35 mph
- Typically rise to sidewalk level; appropriate if crosswalks exist on all four legs
- Appropriate if a dedicated bicycle facility passes through the intersection
- Detectable warnings and/or color contrasts must be incorporated to differentiate the roadway and the sidewalk
- May require bollards to define edge of roadway
- Storm drainage/underground utility modifications are likely necessary
- Minimum pavement slope of 1 percent to facilitate drainage

Potential Impacts:

- Reduction in through movement speeds likely at intersection
- Reduction in mid-block speeds typically less than 10 percent
- No impact on access
- Can make entire intersections more pedestrian-friendly
- No data available on volume diversion or safety impacts

Emergency Response Issues:

- Slows emergency vehicles
- Appropriate for primary emergency vehicle routes and streets with access to a hospital or emergency medical services

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Costs range between \$15,000 and \$60,000

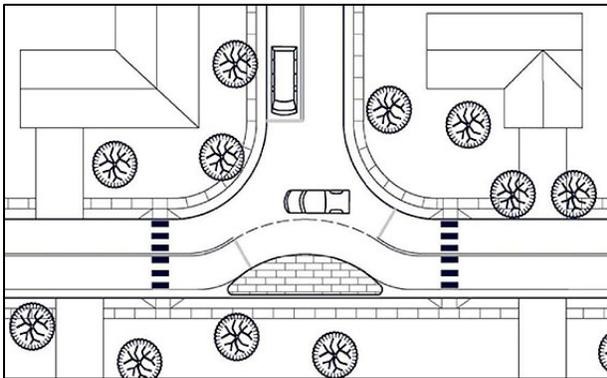
Realigned Intersection

Description:

- Reconfiguration of an intersection with perpendicular angles to have skewed approaches or travel paths through the intersection
- Also called modified intersection

Applications:

- Appropriate for collector or local streets
- Most applicable at T-intersections
- Can be used where on-street parking exists
- Applicable on one-way and two-way roadways
- Most commonly installed on closed-section roads (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Can be applied with and without a dedicated bicycle facility
- Can be applied with or without on-street parking



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)



(Source: Delaware DOT)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Need to avoid relocating drainage features such as catch basins, concrete channels, valley gutters, inlets, and trench drains
- Bicyclists and motorists may have separate lanes or may share lanes at intersections
- Be cognizant of pedestrian crossing needs (e.g., ADA, wheelchair ramps at T-intersections)
- Default design vehicle SU-30
- Typical maximum speed limit of 25 mph
- May be appropriate for buses if adequate turning radii can be provided

Potential Impacts:

- Limited-to-no impact on access
- Minimal anticipated diversion of traffic
- Can result in speed reductions between 5 and 13 mph within intersection limits
- Provides opportunity for landscaping
- Can improve pedestrian safety
- Consider additional intersection lighting

Emergency Response Issues:

- Appropriate along an emergency vehicle route or on a street with access to hospital/emergency medical services
- Little impact on response time

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Costs range between \$15,000 and \$60,000

Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

May 2018 Update



Road Diet

Description:

- Revision of lane use or widths to result in one travel lane per direction with minimum practical width, with goal of reducing cross-section; common application involves conversion of four-lane Two-way road to three-lane road – two through lanes and center two-way left-turn lane (TWLTL)
- Can also involve narrowing of existing travel lanes
- Alternate cross-section uses can include dedicated bicycle facilities, left-turn lanes, on-street parking, raised medians, pedestrian refuge islands, sidewalks, etc.

Applications:

- High likelihood of acceptability for nearly all roadway functional classifications
- Can be applied in urban, suburban, or rural settings
- Appropriate for most common urban speed limits
- Can be applied at/near intersections or along road segments
- Appropriate along bus routes



(Source: Chuck Huffine, Phoenix, AZ)



(Source: Chuck Huffine, Denver, CO)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Must consider transitions from adjacent roadway sections and through intersections
- AADT can be considered but is not the primary volume factor that needs to be evaluated

Potential Impacts:

- Usually reduces number of available travel lanes – impacts demand that can be accommodated; typical acceptable threshold of 1000 vehicles per direction during peak hour
- Reduction of through lanes tends to reduce speeds
- Can improve pedestrian crossing ease and safety
- Can improve bicycle accessibility if travel lanes can be used for shoulders/bike lanes instead

Emergency Response Issues:

- Generally accepted from emergency services; leaves available space for through flow of emergency vehicles

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- \$6000 or less, depending on physical geometric changes and length of application
- The biggest impact to cost involves signal modifications, if applicable; other primary costs include pavement marking and signing revisions
- Costs can be much higher if outside portion of pavement is converted to other non-motorized uses (dedicated bicycle facilities, sidewalks, grass buffers)

Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

May 2018 Update

Speed Cushion

Description:

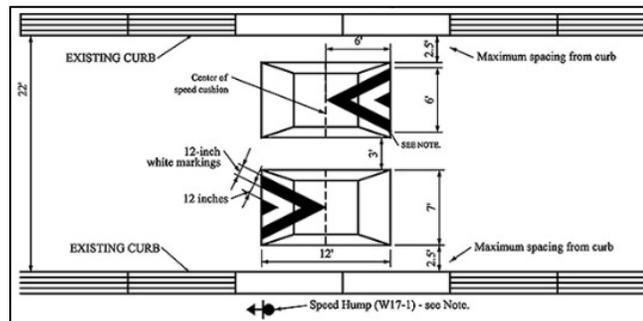
- Two or more raised areas placed laterally across a roadway with gaps between raised areas
- Height and length similar to a speed hump; spacing of gaps allow emergency vehicles to pass through at higher speeds
- Often placed in a series (typically spaced 260 to 500 feet apart)
- Sometimes called speed lump, speed slot, and speed pillow

Applications:

- Appropriate on local and collector streets
- Appropriate at mid-block locations only
- Not appropriate on grades greater than 8 percent



(Source: James Barrera, Horrocks, New Mexico)



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Two or more cushions at each location
- Typically 12 to 14 feet in length and 7 feet in width
- Cushion heights range between 3 and 4 inches, with trend toward 3 - 3 ½ inches maximum
- Speed cushion shapes include parabolic, circular, and sinusoidal
- Material can be asphalt or rubber
- Often have associated signing (advance-warning sign before first cushion at each cushion)
- Typically have pavement markings (zigzag, shark's tooth, chevron, zebra)
- Some have speed advisories

Potential Impacts:

- Limited-to-no impact on non-emergency access
- Speeds determined by height and spacing; speed reductions between cushions have been observed averaging 20 and 25 percent
- Speeds typically increase by 0.5 mph midway between cushions for each 100 feet of separation
- Studies indicate that average traffic volumes have reduced by 20 percent depending on alternative routes available
- Average collision rates have been reduced by 13 percent on treated streets

Emergency Response Issues:

- Speed cushions have minimal impact on emergency response times, with less than a 1 second delay experienced by most emergency vehicles

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost ranges between \$3,000 and \$4,000 for a set of rubber cushions

Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

May 2018 Update

Speed Hump

Description:

- Rounded (vertically along travel path) raised areas of pavement typically 12 to 14 feet in length
- Often placed in a series (typically spaced 260 to 500 feet apart)
- Sometimes called road humps or undulations

Applications:

- Appropriate for residential local streets and residential/neighborhood collectors
- Not typically used on major roads, bus routes, or primary emergency response routes
- Not appropriate for roads with 85th-percentile speeds of 45 mph or more
- Appropriate for mid-block placement, not at intersections
- Not recommended on grades greater than 8 percent
- Work well in combination with curb extensions
- Can be used on a one-lane one-way or two-lane two-way street



(Source: City of Boulder, Colorado)



(Source: PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- ITE recommended practice - "Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps"
- Typically 12 to 14 feet in length; other lengths (10, 22, and 30 feet) reported in practice in U.S.
- Speed hump shapes include parabolic, circular, and sinusoidal
- Typically spaced no more than 500 feet apart to achieve an 85th percentile speed between 25 and 35 mph
- Hump heights range between 3 and 4 inches, with trend toward 3 - 3 ½ inches maximum
- Often have associated signing (advance warning sign before first hump in series at each hump)
- Typically have pavement markings (zigzag, shark's tooth, chevron, zebra)
- Taper edge near curb to allow gap for drainage
- Some have speed advisories
- Need to design for drainage, without encouraging means for motorists to go around a hump

Potential Impacts:

- No impact on non-emergency access
- Average speeds between humps reduced between 20 and 25 percent
- Speeds typically increase approximately 0.5 to 1 mph midway between humps for each 100 feet Beyond the 200-foot approach and exit of consecutive humps
- Traffic volumes diversion estimated around 20 percent; average crash rates reduced by 13 percent

Emergency Response Issues:

- Impacts to ease of emergency-vehicle throughput
- Approximate delay between 3 and 5 seconds per hump for fire trucks and up to 10 seconds for ambulances with patients

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost ranges between \$2,000 and \$4,000

Speed Table/Raised Crosswalks

Description:

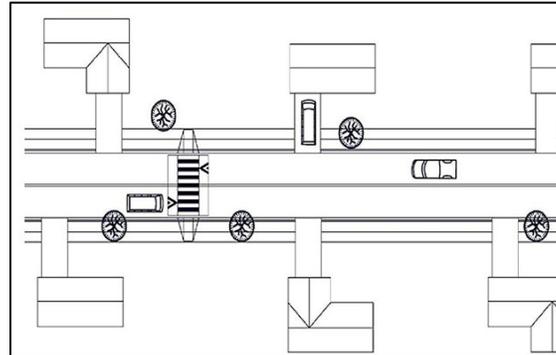
- Long, raised speed humps with a flat section in the middle and ramps on the ends; sometimes constructed with brick or other textured materials on the flat section
- If placed at a pedestrian crossing, it is referred to as a raised crosswalk
- If placed only in one direction on a road, it is called an offset speed table

Applications:

- Appropriate for local and collector streets; mid-block or at intersections, with/without crosswalks
- Can be used on a one-lane one-way or two-lane two-way street
- Not appropriate for roads with 85th percentile speeds of 45 mph or more
- Typically long enough for the entire wheelbase of a passenger car to rest on top or within limits of ramps
- Work well in combination with textured crosswalks, curb extensions, and curb radius reductions
- Can be applied both with and without sidewalks or dedicated bicycle facilities
- Typically installed along closed-section roads (i.e. curb and gutter) but feasible on open section



(Source: Google Maps, Boulder, Colorado)



(Source: Delaware Department of Transportation)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- ITE recommended practice – “Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps”
- Most common height is between 3 and 4 inches (reported as high as 6 inches)
- Ramps are typically 6 feet long (reported up to 10 feet long) and are either parabolic or linear
- Careful design is needed for drainage
- Posted speed typically 30 mph or less

Potential Impacts:

- No impact on non-emergency access
- Speeds reductions typically less than for speed humps (typical traversing speeds between 25 and 27 miles per hour)
- Speeds typically decline approximately 0.5 to 1 mph midway between tables for each 100 feet beyond the 200-foot approach and exit points of consecutive speed tables
- Average traffic volumes diversions of 20 percent when a series of speed tables are implemented
- Average crash rate reduction of 45 percent on treated streets
- Increase pedestrian visibility and likelihood of driver yield compliance
- Generally not appropriate for BRT bus routes

Emergency Response Issues:

- Typically preferred by fire departments over speed humps, but not appropriate for primary emergency vehicle routes; typically less than 3 seconds of delay per table for fire trucks

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Cost ranges between \$2,500 and \$8,000 for asphalt tables; higher for brickwork, stamped asphalt, concrete ramps, and other enhancements sometimes used at pedestrian crossings

Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

March 2019 Update

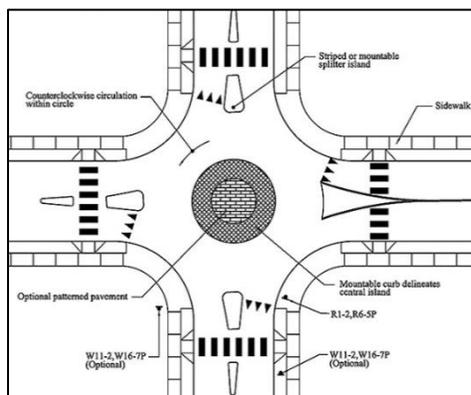
Mini Roundabout

Description:

- Raised islands, placed in unsignalized intersections, around which traffic circulates
- Motorists yield to motorists already in the intersection
- Require drivers to slow to a speed that allows them to comfortably maneuver around them
- Center island of mini roundabout is fully traversable, splitter islands may be fully traversable

Applications:

- Intersections of local and/or collector streets
- One lane each direction entering intersection
- Not typically used at intersections with high volume of large trucks or buses turning left
- Appropriate for low-speed settings



(Source: Delaware DOT)



(Source: Gary Schatz)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation:

- See NCHRP Report 672 for design details
- Typically circular in shape, but may be an oval shape
- Controlled by YIELD signs on all approaches with pedestrian crosswalks, if included, one car-length upstream of YIELD bar
- Preferable for roadway to have urban cross section (i.e., curb and gutter)
- Can be applied to road with on-street parking
- Can be applied to roads both with and without a bicycle facility. Bicycle facilities, if provided, must be separated from the circulatory roadway with physical barriers; cyclists using the circulatory roadway must merge with vehicles. Bicycle facilities are prohibited in the circulatory roadway to prevent right-hook crashes.
- Key design features are the fastest paths and path alignment.

Potential Impacts:

- Slight speed reduction
- Little diversion of traffic
- Bicycle and motorist will share lanes at intersections because of narrowed roadway
- Large vehicles/buses usually drive over the center island for left turns

Emergency Response:

- Emergency vehicles maneuver using the center island at slow speeds

Typical Cost

- Cost is similar to bulb-outs because pedestrian ramps and outside curb lines usually have to be relocated

Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

May 2018 Update

Traffic Circle

Description:

- Raised islands placed in unsignalized intersections around which traffic circulates
- Approaching motorists yield to motorists already in the intersection
- Require drivers to slow to a speed that allows them to comfortably maneuver around them
- Approaches not designed to modern roundabout principals - no deflection

Applications:

- Appropriate at intersections of local streets
- One lane each direction entering intersection
- Not typically used at intersections with high volumes of large trucks or buses turning left
- appropriate for both one-way and two-way streets in urban and suburban settings



(Source: Scott Batson)



(Source: Scott Batson)

ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_calm.cfm

Design/Installation Issues:

- Typically circular in shape but may be an oval shape
- Usually have landscaped center islands
- Recommend YIELD signs on all approaches
- Preferable for roadways to be closed-section (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Can be applied to roads with on-street parking
- Can be applied to roads both with and without dedicated bicycle facilities; bike lanes not striped in circulatory roadway
- Key design features include: offset distance (distance between projection of street curb and center island), lane width of circulatory roadway, circle diameter, and height of mountable apron for large vehicles

Potential Impacts:

- Minimal anticipated traffic diversion
- Bicyclist and motorists will share lanes at intersections because of narrowed roadway
- Large vehicles/buses usually not able to circulate around center island for left turns
- Landscaping needs to be designed to allow adequate sight distance, per AASHTO
- Minimize routing of vehicles through unmarked crosswalks on side-streets
- May require additional street lighting

Emergency Response Issues:

- Emergency vehicles maneuver intersections at slow speeds
- Constrained turning radii typically necessitates a left turn in front of the circle for large vehicles

Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Typical cost is \$15,000, with a range between \$10,000 and \$25,000