What Is the Difference Between a Speed Hump, a Speed Table, and a Speed Bump?

Speed humps are nationally accepted, and are used on residential streets. A speed hump is 12' wide and 3” to 3 1/2” high. Speed tables are nationally accepted, and are used on secondary emergency streets when the Fire Department has determined that speed humps are not appropriate. A speed table is 22’ wide and 3” to 3 1/2” high. Speed bumps are prohibited on local streets, and are used exclusively in shopping centers, apartment complexes, and other private properties. A speed bump is 2’ to 3’ wide and 4” to 6” high.
What Is the Purpose of a Speed Hump?

The purpose of a speed hump is to reduce the speed of vehicles on residential streets where speeding is occurring. They are not designed to change the volume of traffic on residential streets, and do not significantly reduce cut-through traffic.

How Many Speed Humps Do You Install on a Street?

The number of speed humps installed on a street depends on the length of the street. For speed humps to be effective, they must be installed in a series, approximately 400’ to 600’ apart. One speed hump alone is not advised—they are used as a system.

Who Pays For Speed Humps?

The installation of speed humps is paid for by the residents themselves. The residents can pay for the speed humps through contributions. The Improvement District Process can only be used on projects with 20 or more speed humps.

How Does a Citizen Have Speed Humps Installed In Their Neighborhood?

The citizen or the neighborhood association contacts the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), City of Tucson Traffic Engineering Division at (520) 791-4259 for information. NTMP will mail information along with the petition forms for the neighborhood residents to sign. A 60% approval of resident’s signatures must be gathered before a study is performed. After a study is completed, speed humps could be a recommendation if speeding is a problem.

Disadvantages:

- Emergency response vehicles may be delayed between 2 to 10 seconds per speed hump.
- Noise levels may increase when vehicles drive over the speed hump.
- The motorist may tend to drive closer to the curb to have only one side of the car go over the speed hump.

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How Effective Are Speed Humps?

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What Is a Speed Hump?

The difference between a speed bump and a speed hump, showing the standard City of Tucson hump dimensions. The city does not allow speed bumps.

Typical Speed Bump: 18” x 3.5”

Typical Speed Hump: 12’ long x 3.5” high