

Updated Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps

Margaret Parkhill, P.Eng., Rudolph Sooklall, M.A.Sc, Geni Bahar, P.Eng.

Abstract

Speed humps have gained acceptance as a traffic calming device by North American and international jurisdictions. However, design and application varies widely between jurisdictions, and speed humps often meet resistance from residents and road users. In 1997, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) published a Recommended Practice for the design and application of speed humps. The recommended practice is now being updated to provide state-of-the-practice guidelines for speed humps and speed tables.

To update the ITE speed humps recommended practice, the experiences of agencies implementing speed humps were obtained through an extensive literature review. The literature review was supplemented with an online survey targeting North American and international jurisdictions.

This paper provides an overview of the recommended framework for an agency to follow to implement speed humps or speed tables in their jurisdiction. This framework is based on the experience documented by dozens of agencies. The framework includes:

- Develop and follow a formal public consultation process;
- Determine the needs of the street or neighborhood;
- Construct and maintain speed humps; and
- Monitor and evaluate speed hump effectiveness.