



City of Whittier

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(562) 567-9500 Fax (562) 567-2874

Policy for the Installation of Speed Humps

Introduction

Speed humps are an appropriate mechanism for reducing speeds on certain streets in the City of Whittier when properly installed under the right circumstances. They should only be installed to address documented safety or traffic concerns supported by traffic engineering studies, and after consideration of alternative traffic control measures.

Criteria for determining the appropriateness for such an installation should be carefully reviewed so that the installed humps will not present an equal or greater traffic problem on another residential street. Special consideration should also be given to the following prior to making a final decision for the installation of speed humps.

1. Increase in travel time over the humps.
2. Increase in traffic noise level near the humps.
3. Increase in vehicular vibrations transmitted by the hump crossing may have detrimental effects on adjacent properties and structures.
4. Increase in bicycles, skateboards and in-line skating activities at and around the humps.
5. Increase the possibility of vehicle and cargo damage.
6. Aesthetic and neighborhood appearance.
7. Liability concerns.
8. Maintenance effort.

Criteria for Installation

1. **Street Classification and Use:** Speed humps should only be installed on local residential streets as classified in the Circulation Elements of the Whittier City General Plan.
2. **Street Width and Number of Lanes:** Speed humps should only be used on streets with no more than two (2) travel lanes, or where the overall pavement width is not greater than 40 feet.
3. **Street Grades:** Speed humps should only be considered for use on streets with grades of five (5) percent or less approaching the hump.
4. **Horizontal and Vertical Alignment:** Speed humps should not be placed within horizontal curves of less than 300 feet centerline radius and on vertical

curves with less than the minimum safe stopping sight distance determined by engineering calculation.

5. **Traffic Speeds:** Speed humps should be installed only on streets where the posted or prima facie speed is 25 mph or less. The critical (85%) speed should be at least **35mph**.
6. **Traffic Volumes:** Speed humps should generally be installed only on streets with an average daily traffic (ADT) volume between 1,000 and 3,000 vehicles per day. The suitability of a particular street for the installation of speed humps will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
7. **Length of Segments:** Speed Humps should not be installed in isolated blocks along a continuous street or on relatively short (less than 1,000 feet) cul-de-sac streets. Minimum spacing of speed humps should be at least 800 feet.
8. **Vehicle Mix:** Speed humps should not be installed on streets that carry:
 - (a) more than five (5) percent of truck traffic,
 - (b) primary or routine emergency vehicle access routes,
 - (c) public transit routes (**Except Whittier Transit Route - Pending test run results**).
9. **Citizen Support:** When speed humps are installed in response to citizen requests, a documented majority, at least **sixty-five (65)** percent, of property owners residing along the affected portion of that street should support their installation.
10. **Emergency Services Support:** Police, fire and other emergency services support of the speed humps is a vital factor for the success of the installation of this type of speed control devices.

Criteria for Removal

Due to many unforeseen reasons residents may wish to have speed humps removed after their installation. The following are procedures to be followed for the removal of speed humps:

1. Petition signed by at least **65%** of the property owners/residents of the street section.
2. Speed humps may not be considered for removal within three (3) years of installation.
3. A public meeting shall be held with affected property owners/residents and City staff to discuss removal of speed humps.
4. If speed humps are removed, they may not be reconsidered for installation for five (5) years.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this policy, please contact the City of Whittier Public Works Department at (562) 567-9500.

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