

Frequently Asked Questions

Topic: Speed Humps

Q. Why do we have speed humps?

A. Speeding on residential street is a common complaint of concerned citizens. Although enforcement of speed limits by police departments is an effective means of reducing speeds, limited resources do not allow such enforcement on a regular and permanent basis. Research has shown that speed humps are an effective approach to slowing down traffic on residential streets.

Q. What is a speed hump and how is it different from a speed bump?

A. A speed hump is a gradual rise and fall of the pavement surface along the roadway extending across the pavement width. Generally, speed humps used on residential streets are 12 to 22 feet long with a maximum height of 3 to 4 inches. Speed humps differ from speed bumps which are seen in many private parking lots. A speed bump is abrupt, having a height of 3 to 4 inches over a length of 1 to 3 feet. Speed bumps cause most vehicles to slow down to almost a stop to go over it. Speed humps, on the other hand, are designed so most vehicles can go over them at 20 mph without causing driver discomfort.

Q. Do speed humps delay Emergency Vehicles such as police, fire and ambulances?

A. Speed humps significantly delay Emergency Vehicle travel, their overall response times which affects their ultimate arrival.

Q. Do speed humps reduce cut-through traffic?

A. Yes due to their primary purpose which is to reduce speed and as a traffic calming measure. Traffic diversion due to speed hump installation is a side effect which may or may not result. A possible disadvantage of speed humps is that motorists may avoid the speed humps by using other nearby streets in the area.

Q. Can speed humps be placed on any type of street?

A. Speed humps are considered and placed only on residential streets with not more than two lanes and with a speed limit of 20 mph. Exceptions are made with speed limits of up to 30 mph. For safety reasons, speed humps are not installed on streets with high traffic volume or curves. Speed humps are not designed for connector roads or thoroughfares which are heavily traveled and provide access to motorists to one main area of town to another.

Q. What are examples of connector roads and thoroughfares in the City of San Benito?

A. Some examples of connector roads and thoroughfares in the City of San Benito are and not limited to: Expressway 77, Business Highway 77, Oscar Williams Road, La Palma Street, Combes Street, Sam Houston Street, McCulloch Street, F.M. 510, F.M. 732, and F.M. 509.

Q. What type of speed humps does the City of San Benito use?

A. The City of San Benito Traffic and Safety Board uses the circular speed hump, which is 16 feet long and used on those residential streets which provide access to multiple streets in the neighborhood.

Q. How can I get speed humps on my street?

A. Applications are available at the City of San Benito, City Secretary's Office or by download from this webpage. The City of San Benito Traffic and Safety Board reserves the right to decline any application that does not meet ALL Eligibility Requirements from Resolution 2012-6.

Please contact San Benito Police Department Traffic and Safety Board Liaison Lieutenant Michael Cortez at the below listed outlets with initial questioning or concerns about traffic safety issues in your area.

Lieutenant Michael Cortez

Office: (956) 361-3880 ext. 201

Cellular: (956) 456-9907

Email: mcortez@cityofsanbenito.com