Speed Humps

A speed hump is a raised area of a roadway, which causes the vertical upward movement of travelling vehicles. Speed humps encourage slower speeds of travel by causing discomfort for drivers travelling at higher speeds. There is no negative effect on cyclists riding at moderate speeds, and there is no effect on resident access or on-street parking.

Speed humps are constructed with gradual tapers and are installed across the width of the roadway, leaving space for drainage where necessary. Speed tables are similar; however they have a flat-topped elongated section. For comparison speed humps are 4 m long, while speed tables are 7 m long. Site conditions must be carefully reviewed when selecting locations for speed humps. They cannot be safely placed on hills, should avoid intersections and driveways, cannot cover hardware in the street and need to be visible around curves. Spacing of measures should be consistent along the corridor where possible.

Speed humps were used as the primary traffic calming measure in the early stages of the HRM traffic calming program. More recently they are implemented in school zones and in areas where speed tables are not feasible.



