

Speed Cushions

Speed cushions are a new traffic calming measure being piloted in HRM to encourage slower speeds of travel by causing discomfort for drivers travelling at higher speeds. Similar to a speed table or speed hump, speed cushions are a raised area of a roadway which causes the vertical upward movement of travelling vehicles.

Speed cushions differ from speed tables and speed humps because they include channels which are designed for large vehicles, such as transit buses and fire trucks, to pass through with minimal impact. The wheel track of a passenger vehicle is too narrow to fit in the channels, and thus passenger vehicles must traverse over the deflections.

Cyclists can choose to traverse over the speed cushions or avoid them entirely by travelling through the channels between the raised elements. There is no effect on resident access or on-street parking.

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.

