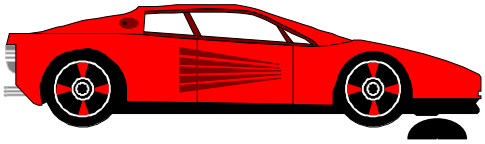
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #9

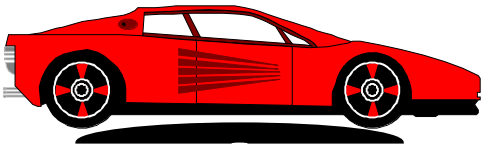
Why aren't speed bumps used on all streets to slow traffic?

When traffic goes too fast on a street, people sometimes suggest we install speed bumps to slow vehicles down. Speed bumps are usually not an effective solution to speeding on public roadways. Speed *humps*, on the other hand, are used in some locations.

What is the difference between speed bumps and speed humps?
Speed bumps and speed humps are both used to slow vehicles, but they have different designs and are used in different places.



Speed Bump



Speed Hump

Speed bumps are made of an abruptly raised portion of pavement. Most speed bumps are found in parking lots and along private roadways. Speed bumps can produce substantial driver discomfort/injury, damage to vehicle suspension, and/or loss of control if encountered at too high a speed. These are some of the reasons why speed bumps are not used on public roadways.

A speed hump, on the other hand, is a much more gently raised portion of pavement. Speed humps are much longer than speed bumps and not nearly as steep. Speed humps create a gentle vehicle rocking motion at low speeds, but they can jolt a vehicle at higher speeds.

Factors that determine the use of speed humps
There are many factors that are considered when decided whether or not to install a speed hump at a particular location.

The use of speed humps typically lowers vehicle speeds to about 15 miles per hour. Speed humps are installed on some local roads and other low speed limit roadways. Speed humps may be used on local streets when it is determined that lower vehicle speeds and less through traffic are needed. Speed humps are not used on roadways that are intended for high-speed and high-volume traffic.

Speed humps can make the work of winter maintenance vehicles more difficult and can slow emergency vehicle response speeds. These factors should also be considered in deciding the location of speed humps.

For more information
For more information, please contact _____.