

## Traffic Calming Measures



Traffic calming involves changes of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of vehicles in the interest of street safety, livability, and other public purposes.

As traffic calming techniques often differ, techniques include police enforcement and education only in some areas. In others, it means the employment of speed humps only, while in others it means the possible use of a wide array of techniques and devices.

### Traffic calming goals include:

- increasing the quality of life
- incorporating the preferences and requirements of the people using the area (e.g., working, playing, residing) along the street(s), or at intersection(s)
- creating safe and attractive streets
- helping to reduce the negative effects of motor vehicles on the environment (e.g., pollution, sprawl)
- promoting pedestrian, cycle and transit use.

### Traffic calming objectives include:

- achieving slow speeds for motor vehicles
- reducing collision frequency and severity
- increasing the safety and the perception of safety for non-motorized users of the street(s)
- reducing the need for police enforcement
- enhancing the street environment (e.g., street scaping)
- encouraging water infiltration into the ground
- increasing access for all modes of transportation
- reducing cut-through motor vehicle traffic

## Examples of Traffic Calming Measures

### Devices and Techniques

### Descriptions

Bike Lanes

A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.



Bulbouts/Neckdowns/Chokers

Curb extensions at intersections that reduce curb-to-curb roadway travel lane widths.



Center Islands

Raised islands located along the centerline of a roadway that narrow the width at that location.



Chicanes/Lateral Shifts

Curb extensions that alternate from one side of the roadway to the other, forming s-shaped curves.



Closures (cul-de-sacs)

Barriers placed across roadways to completely close through vehicle traffic.



Diverters

Barriers placed diagonally across an intersection, blocking certain movements.



Forced Turn Lanes

Raised islands located on approaches to an intersection that block certain movements.



Median Barriers

Raised islands located along the centerline of a roadway and continuing through an intersection to block cross traffic.



Realigned Intersections

Changes in alignments that convert T-intersections with straight approaches into curving roadways meeting at right angles.



Roundabouts

Barriers placed in the middle of an intersection, directing all traffic in the same direction.



Speed Humps

Rounded raised pavement devices placed across roadways to slow and/or discourage traffic



Speed Tables/ Textured Pavement/Raised Crossings

Flat-topped speed humps often constructed with a brick or other textured material to slow traffic



Education and police enforcement are two other important measures in traffic calming. Education provides instructions to residents on safe on-street vehicle travel. Police enforcement employs the services of law enforcement agencies to impose the local safe vehicle laws, including those for posted speeds and traffic signal/signs.

\*Information courtesy of the Institute of Transportation Engineers 2010 and United States Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration.