



## DDOT Guidelines on Vertical Traffic Calming Implementation

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memo is to detail the criteria used to evaluate implementation of vertical traffic calming infrastructure on roadways within the District. Vertical traffic calming devices including speed humps, speed tables, and raised crosswalks are typically used to maintain travel speeds at or below the posted speed limit. These devices are most widely applied along local and collector neighborhood/residential streets but may be applied to certain minor arterials in unique circumstances, per these guidelines. Vertical traffic calming devices shall not be placed on roads classified as Principal Arterials or higher. **The criteria detailed in this document supersedes all previous DDOT guidance on vertical traffic calming, including *DDOT Speed Hump Request Procedures and Engineering Guidelines (2010)* and *DDOT Traffic Calming Assessment Application (2012)*. The criteria and applicability for other non-vertical traffic calming remains unchanged.**

Generally, vertical traffic calming devices can result in both positive and negative impacts to the transportation network. Implementation of these devices can help maintain travel speeds at or below the posted speed limit and help manage aggressive driving behavior. The United States Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Traffic Calming ePrimer states that "*speed effects of a single or series of speed humps are greater than for any other traffic calming measure with the exception of route diversions that eliminate a particular traffic movement.*" However, in some cases they can increase emergency response time, and may lead to an increase in noise or physical vibration in cases where trucks and transit vehicles are frequent. Another common concern with vertical traffic calming is the potential for traffic diversion to adjacent streets. However, FHWA's Traffic Calming ePrimer states "*As single installation, there is little traffic diversion from the street; as part of a series, typical volume reductions of 20 percent observed.*" Given the benefits identified by FHWA, and the relatively minor and manageable drawbacks, speed humps and similar vertical traffic calming measures shall be the preferred method for speed-related neighborhood traffic calming in the District, when feasible.

Implementation of vertical traffic calming is considered following a Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) request from a resident. Any requests for vertical traffic calming that are received outside of the TSI process will be denied with instructions for the requester to resubmit the request via the TSI process. When considering vertical traffic calming requests, DDOT reviews whether certain eligibility and feasibility criteria are met for the roadway in question. Satisfaction of all these criteria indicates that a street is eligible for speed hump installation. Following a determination of eligibility, a set of design criteria is provided that shall be followed for all vertical traffic calming installations. Exceptions to these eligibility and feasibility criteria require written approval of Traffic Safety Branch Manager prior to installation. DDOT may also consider vertical traffic calming as part of other on-going projects with or without a corresponding TSI.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The following criteria must be met for a street to be eligible for vertical traffic calming installation.

### ***Roadway Classification, Traffic Volume and Speed***

#### *Local Roads*

Speed humps and/or raised crosswalks may be installed on streets classified as local roads with predominantly residential land uses, provided that all other eligibility and design criteria are met. While DDOT may choose to collect traffic data on a case-by-case basis, it is not a requirement for implementation of vertical traffic calming devices on local roads.

#### *Collector Roads*

Installation of speed tables and/or raised crosswalks on collectors with ADT (Average Daily Traffic) less than 5,000 vehicles per day can be considered following the collection of volume and speed data. Speed data should be evaluated in the context of Vision Zero based on the known dangers of increased travel speeds on safety, and particularly the safety of vulnerable users as the risk of fatality or serious injury increases exponentially with vehicle travel speed. Engineering judgement shall govern the final decision in all cases.

Installation of raised crosswalks can be considered on collectors with ADT between 5,000 and 7,500 vehicles per day in unique circumstances following an engineering assessment. Vertical traffic calming devices shall not be installed on collectors with ADT higher than 7,500 vehicles per day.

#### *Other Classifications*

In general, for speed management on minor arterials or roads with higher classifications, alternative countermeasures such as Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE), Driver Feedback Signs (DFB), flashing speed limit signs, as well as corridor-level treatments including road diet projects are preferred and should be considered before vertical traffic calming. Additional proven traffic control devices to specifically address pedestrian crossing safety issues on arterial that can be considered include but are not limited to flashing pedestrian signs, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), and depending on deployment criteria and availability of funding and resources, High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK).

Vertical traffic calming devices shall not be placed on roads classified as minor arterials with ADT higher than 7,500 vehicles per day or on higher classification roads. Speed tables and/or raised crosswalks may be considered on minor arterials with ADT lower than 5,000 vehicles per day, following an engineering assessment. Additionally, installation of raised crosswalks can be considered on minor arterials with ADT between 5,000 and 7,500 vehicles per day in unique circumstances following an engineering assessment with special considerations given to proximity to schools and higher concentration of vulnerable road users at uncontrolled crossings along these arterials.

The functional classification of streets in the District can be found in the 2016 Functional Classification Map:

[https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/FunctionalClass\\_2016.pdf](https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/FunctionalClass_2016.pdf)

The approximate ADT of streets in the District can be found in the 2018 Traffic Volume Map:

[https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/TrafficVolumes\\_2018.pdf](https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/publication/attachments/TrafficVolumes_2018.pdf)

### ***Roadway Grade***

Vertical traffic calming shall not be installed on roadways where the grade exceeds eight percent (8%). Roadway grade can be determined by field survey when collecting existing site conditions or can be estimated using Google Earth. If grades measured using Google Earth are within one percent (1%) of this threshold, a field survey using an inclinometer shall be performed to confirm the roadway grade.

### ***Roadway Speed Limit***

Vertical traffic calming shall not be installed on roads where the posted speed limit is greater than 30 miles per hour. Where no speed limit is posted and on all local roads, the default speed limit is assumed to be 20 miles per hour.

### ***Emergency Access Route***

Vertical traffic calming shall not be installed on any roadway that serves as a primary route for emergency vehicles, such as the main approaches to hospitals or fire stations.

### ***Truck or Transit Route***

Speed humps shall not be installed on streets that are designated as transit or truck routes. Consideration should be given to installation of speed tables and/or raised crosswalks if vertical traffic calming is desired on such roadways, if heavy vehicle (i.e., trucks and buses) percentage does not exceed 5%. Determination of heavy vehicle percentage along higher-volume collectors should be made based on vehicle classification counts.

A map of WMATA transit routes can be found here:

[https://www.wmata.com/schedules/maps/upload/WEB\\_WMA\\_MAG\\_DC\\_21x34\\_210305.pdf](https://www.wmata.com/schedules/maps/upload/WEB_WMA_MAG_DC_21x34_210305.pdf)

A map of DDOT-designated truck routes can be found here:

[https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/service\\_content/attachments/DC%20Truck%20Map%20Brochure\\_12.10.20\\_web.pdf](https://ddot.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddot/service_content/attachments/DC%20Truck%20Map%20Brochure_12.10.20_web.pdf)

## **DESIGN CRITERIA**

If a street is found to be eligible for vertical traffic calming installation, the following design specifications should be used to determine the exact location of vertical traffic calming devices in the field.

- Devices shall be placed in locations where drivers have adequate sight distance to see vertical deflection on the roadway surface, preferably from a distance of at least 250 feet on uninterrupted segments of road for drivers traveling at the design speed;
- Placement of devices must avoid conflicts with other transportation and utility infrastructure;
- Devices should be located near a streetlight to ensure nighttime illumination;
- Devices shall be installed at least 200 feet apart but not greater than 500 feet apart on road segments bounded by two intersections;
- Devices shall be placed at least 5 feet from a driveway, and 20 feet from an alley;
- Devices should be placed at least 150' from STOP or YIELD-controlled intersection approaches. However, where other constraints exist (e.g., short block spacing or presence of driveways) a distance of at least 100' may be used provided that proper spacing and placement of warning signs can be maintained;
- Devices should be placed at least 250' from a traffic signal (shorter spacing may be considered on a case-by-case basis);
- Devices should NOT be installed on horizontal or vertical curves if avoidable. If placement on a curve is unavoidable, advanced warning signs and markings shall be designed to provide satisfactory notice to drivers;
- Devices shall NOT be installed in the path of a pedestrian crossing or curb ramp, unless the device installed is a raised crosswalk;
- Devices shall NOT be installed over manholes or water valves;
- Devices shall NOT be installed adjacent to fire hydrants;
- Devices installed near drainage inlets should be installed on the downslope side of the inlet as to not impact drainage flow; and
- Devices may be installed on concrete roadways using either asphalt or concrete construction.

If it is determined during design that one or more of the above criteria would be violated, the Traffic Safety Branch Manager shall make a final determination on whether it is still feasible and safe to install vertical traffic calming devices and where the devices shall be installed. Locations of vertical traffic calming devices proposed under a Safe Routes to School assessment shall comply with all design criteria.

### *Raised Crosswalks*

Additional design criteria are required for the installation of raised crosswalks, as outlined below. Raised crosswalks installed at an intersection shall require a full engineering design plan that is designed by a licensed professional engineer.

- Raised Crosswalks, including their flares or pitch, should not be installed in conflict with water, sewer, gas, telecom, Pepco, or DDOT-owned signal/streetlight manholes;
- Raised Crosswalks shall not be installed such that the flares extend into any conflicting travel lanes when installed at intersections;

- Raised Crosswalks shall not be installed at intersections such that any relocation of the stop bar that may be required to install the raised crosswalk violates minimum intersection sight distances. Raised crosswalks are most preferred at uncontrolled and/or midblock crossings, where vehicular traffic flow is not controlled by a traffic control device such as a stop sign or a traffic light;
- Raised Crosswalks shall not be installed if proper alignment of ADA ramps with the proposed crosswalk cannot be maintained; and
- Raised Crosswalks shall not be installed such that they will impact drainage flow.

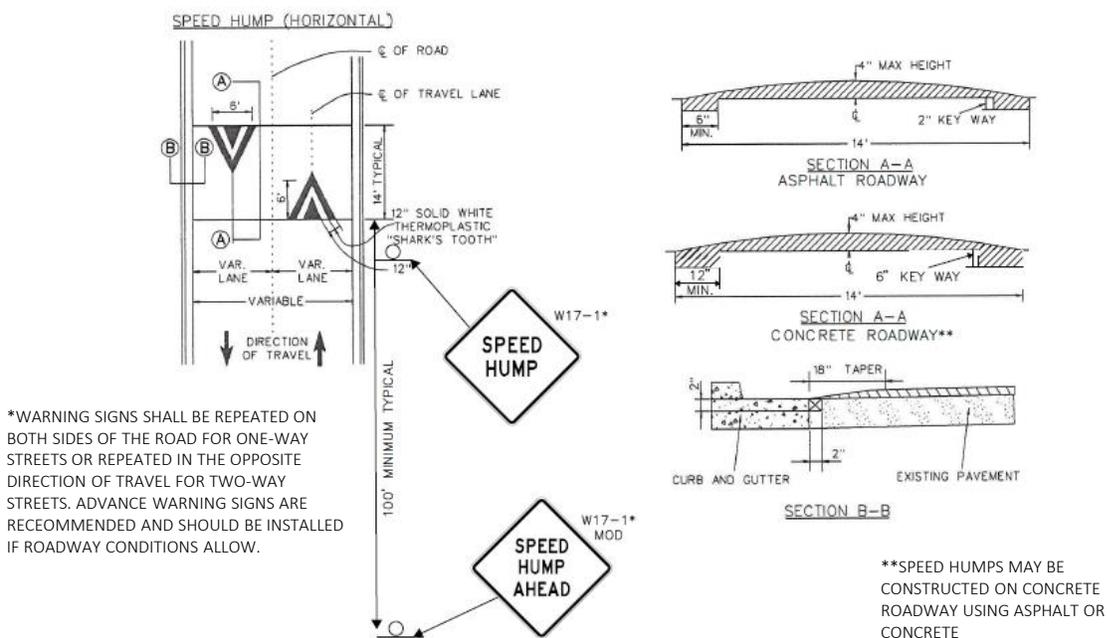
## **EXCEPTIONS**

Any exceptions to the guidelines outlined in this document shall require written approval from the Traffic Safety Branch Manager of the Traffic Engineering and Safety Division.

## **DESIGN STANDARDS**

Design specifications for vertical traffic calming devices and the associated warning signs, as installed by DDOT, are provided in the following sections.

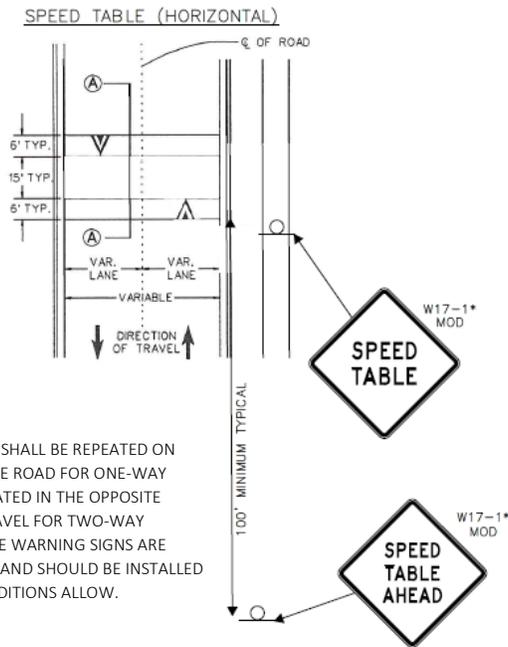
### ***Speed Hump Design Specifications***



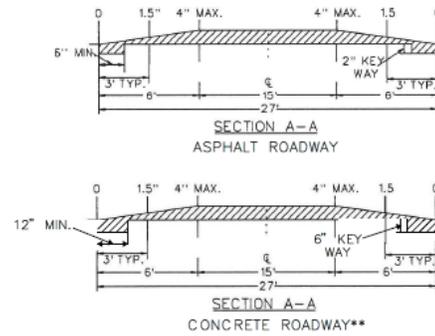
#### **NOTES:**

TYPICALLY, A SPEED HUMP IS 14 FEET LONG BUT CAN BE BETWEEN 10 FEET AND 14 FEET IN LENGTH, AND HEIGHT CAN BE BETWEEN 3 INCHES AND 4 INCHES. TYPICAL HEIGHT IS 4 INCHES.

### Speed Table Design Specifications



\*WARNING SIGNS SHALL BE REPEATED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD FOR ONE-WAY STREETS OR REPEATED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL FOR TWO-WAY STREETS. ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS ARE RECOMMENDED AND SHOULD BE INSTALLED IF ROADWAY CONDITIONS ALLOW.

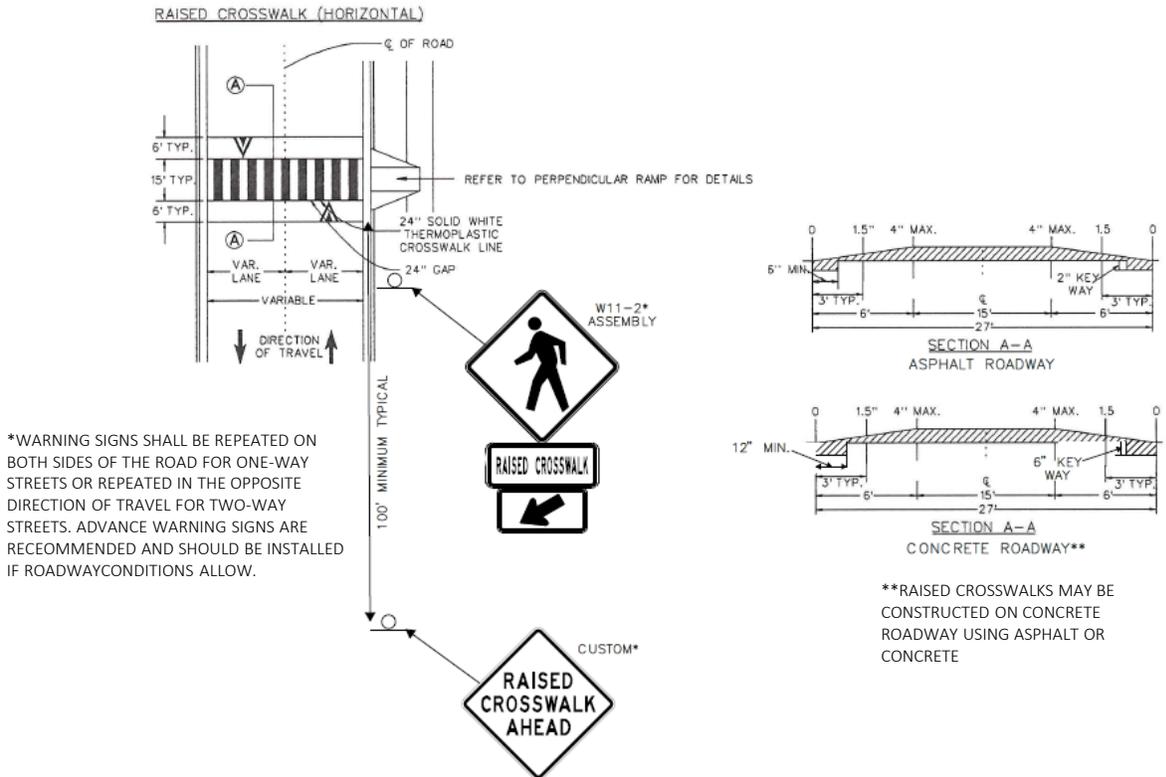


\*\*SPEED TABLES MAY BE CONSTRUCTED ON CONCRETE ROADWAY USING ASPHALT OR CONCRETE

**NOTES:**

TYPICALLY, A SPEED TABLE IS 27 FEET LONG BUT CAN BE BETWEEN 22 FEET AND 27 FEET IN LENGTH. HEIGHT CAN BE BETWEEN 3 INCHES AND 4 INCHES. TYPICAL HEIGHT IS 4 INCHES.

### Raised Crosswalk Design Specifications



**NOTES:**

1. THE WIDTH FOR RAISED CROSSWALKS WILL BE 22 FEET FOR LOCAL ROADS AND 27 FEET FOR COLLECTOR ROADS. HEIGHT CAN BE BETWEEN 3 INCHES AND 4 INCHES. TYPICAL HEIGHT IS 4 INCHES.
2. IF INSTALLATION OF PERPENDICULAR RAMP IS NOT FEASIBLE THEN REFER TO OTHER RAMP DETAILS.