## **Engineering Countermeasures for Reducing Speeds**: A Desktop Reference of Potential Effectiveness

## May 2009

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		je Daily Imes	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speeds				
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change	
			GE	OMETRIC	FEATURES							
Speed Hump -rounded raised area across the	Urban	Local Street	1 (1999)	178		48 to 11544	46 to 11043	35 (4)	27 (4)	-8 (3)	-22% (9%)	
road, typically 12 to 14 feet in length and 3 to 4 inches high		Local Street	2 (2005)	7		400 to 4362	401 to 3384	32 (3)	26 (2)	-6 (2)	-20% (6%)	
		Local Street	4 (2000)	4		475 to 1506	433 to 1343	36 (2)	31 (2)	-5 (1)	-15% (3%)	
Speed Cushion -speed hump typically 6 to 7	Urban		1 (1999)	1		3323	2321	35 (-)	28 (-)	-7 (-)	-20% (-)	
feet wide that allows most emergency vehicles to straddle the hump.			2 (2005)	2		1042 to 1556	693 to 1563	31 to 37	26 to 30	-5 to -7	-16% to 19%	
<b>Speed Table</b> -a long speed hump typically 22	Urban		1 (1999)	72		198 to 14500	242 to 14400	37 (3)	31 (3)	-6 (3)	-16% (9%)	
feet in length with a flat section in the middle and ramps on the ends	Rural	Small town	3 (2008)	2	12 month	1480		33 (1)	29 (2)	-4 (1)	-14% (3%)	
enus		Residential Streets	18 (2003)	19		198 to 2102	364 to 2061	38 (n/a)	29 (n/a)	-9 (n/a)	-24% (n/a)	
Raised Intersection	Urban		1 (1999)	2				37 (1)	38 (4)	1 (4)	3% (11%)	
-a raised plateau, with ramps on all approaches, where roads intersect	Urban	Local Street	5 (2004)	1				30 (-)	30 (-)	0 (-)	0% (-)	
Choker -mid-block curb extensions that narrow a road by extending the sidewalk or widening the planting strip	Urban		1 (1999)	4		770 to 6150	331 to 5040	34 (2)	30 (2)	-4 (1)	-3% (3%)	
	Urban	Residential Area	51 (1977)	6				30 (4) 95%tile	29 (3) 95%tile	-1 (2) 95%tile	-3% (7%) 95%tile	

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				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change	
<b>Neckdown</b> -intersection curb extensions that narrow a road by extending	Urban		1 (1999)	3		2800 to 8110	4660 to 5660	29 (9)	30 (3)	1 (7)	3% (30%)	
the width of a sidewalk	Urban	Local Street	5 (2004)	2				28 (3)	31 (4)	3 (7)	12% (27%)	
<b>Chicane</b> -curb extensions that alternate from one side of the street to	Urban		1 (1999)	2		1380 to 3200	790 to 2400	33 (4)	27 (4)	-6 (1)	-16% (4%)	
the other, forming S-shaped curves.			4 (2000)	4	at least 4 years	1380 to 1965	790 to 1993	31 (6)	22 (4)	-9 (4)	-29% (8%)	
	Urban	School Zone	42 (1998)	1		8000		31 (-)	28 (-)	-3 (-)	-10% (-)	
Lateral Shift -curb extension that shifts travel	Urban	Local Street	5 (2004)	1				36 (-)	33 (-)	-3 (-)	-8% (-)	
anes to one side of road for extended distance and then back to the other side	Rural	At City Limits	19 (1999)	5				44 (4)	33 (4)	-11 (7)	-25% (9%)	
<b>Center Island</b> -a raised island along the centerline of a street that narrows the travel lanes	Urban		1 (1999)	1		3500	2800	33 (-)	29 (-)	-4 (-)	-12% (-)	
<b>Traffic Circle</b> -circular, raised island placed within the middle of an intersection	Urban		1 (1999)	45		240 to 10910	269 to 8280	34 (5)	30 (4)	-4 (3)	-11% (9%)	
Roundabout -large, raised, circular islands at the middle of major		Transition from High to Low Speed	36 (2005)	1				48 (-)	28 (-)	-20 (-)	-42% (-)	
intersections, around which all oncoming vehicles must travel until reaching their destination	Suburban	Y Intersection of two-lane roads	37 (2005)	1				32 (-)	24 (-)	-8 (-)	-25% (-)	
street, where they then turn off.	Urban		38 (2004)	1				47 (-)	33 (-)	-14 (-)	-30% (-)	
	Urban & Rural	Intersection entry	54 (2007)	55					20 (4)			
			SURFACE T	REATMEI	NTS AND MAR	KINGS						
Transverse Rumble Strips -raised or grooved patterns	Rural	Posted Speed Limit=70mph	17 (2007)	3	5 months					-0.6 (0.4)		
installed on the roadway travel lane or shoulder pavements, perpendicular to the direction of travel.	Rural	Intersection	23 (2003)	11	At least 1 month					-1 to -2		

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		e Daily Imes		85 <sup>th</sup> P	ercentile Spe	eds
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
Converging Chevron	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	2	12 months	2300		36 (1)	33 (1)	-3 (2)	-7% (6%)
Marking Pattern -a type of transverse pavement markings forming chevron shape to create the illusion of translip forther are upplied the		Double S-Curve On A Two- Lane Roadway	7 (2006)	1	15 months			37 (-)	33 (-)	-4 (-)	-11% (-)
traveling faster as well as the impression of narrower lanes.	Urban	Exit Ramps	12 (2003)	1	20 months			70 (-)	53 (-)	-17 (-)	-24% (-)
		Community Collector Street	13 (2001)	1	2 years			41 (-)	39 (-)	-2 (-)	-5% (-)
		Freeway-to-Freeway Connector Curve	48 (2008)	1	6 months	18000		53.4 (-)	52.8 (-)	-0.6 (-)	-1% (-)
Transverse Markings	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	3	5 days			49 (3)	50 (3)	0.2 (1.7)	0.3% (3%)
-a series of white lines placed across the center of the lane and spaced progressively closer to create the illusion of traveling faster	Rural	Interstate Work Zone	46 (2001)	1		18000		68 (-)	67 (-)	-1 (-)	-1% (-)
Optical Speed Bars	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	1	12 months			46 (-)	45 (-)	-1 (-)	-2% (-)
-a series of white rectangular markings typically 1 foot wide	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	2	3 months	1000		47 (8)	46 (-)	-1 (0)	-2% (0)
placed just inside both edges of the lane and spaced	Rural	Curve	11 (2004)	3				37 (6)	36 (10)	-1 (4)	-2% (8%)
progressively closer to create the illusion of traveling faster as well as the impression of	Rural	Two-Lane Highway; Tourist Traffic	45 (2009)	1	3 months			71 (-)	66 (-)	-5 (-)	-7% (-)
narrower lane.	Rural	Freeway Curves	53 (2008)	1	6 months	63,072	57,948	61 (-)	60 (-)	-1 (-)	-2% (-)
Speed Limit Pavement Legend	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	4	12 months			34 (3)	33 (2)	-1 (1)	-1% (4%)
Enhanced Speed Limit Legend with Colored Surfacing	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	3	12 months	1000		46 (6)	44 (6)	-2 (2)	-4% (4%)
In-Roadway Warning Lights	Urban	Residential Area; Pedestrian Crossing	15 (2000)	2	1 month	30,000		46 (0)	39 (1)	-7 (1)	-15% (1%)
		School Zone	33		1 year			58 (-)	53 (-)	-5 (-)	-9% (-)
	Urban	Central Business District; Pedestrian Crossing	34 (2004)	1	2 weeks	25,000		21 (-)	22 (-)	1 (-)	5% (-)
		Freeway Off-Ramp	39 (2008)	1	14 months			57 (-)	53 (-)	-4 (-)	-7% (-)
Delineator Post	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	3	5 days			49 (3)	50 (3)	0.5 (0.4)	1% (1%)

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		je Daily Imes		85 <sup>th</sup> Po	ercentile Spe	eds
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
"Slow" Pavement Legend	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	3	9 months	2940		40 (6)	41 (8)	1 (2)	1% (4%)
	Suburban	Curve on Two-Lane Road	47 (1998)	1	2 weeks	5000		39 (-)	37 (-)	-2 (-)	-5% (-)
				SIG	NS						
Speed Feedback Sign	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	1	3 months	2870		37 (-)	30 (-)	-7 (-)	-19% (-)
-sign that dynamically displays speed of passing vehicles with		15mph School Zone	8 (2002)	1				48 (-)	15 (-)	-33 (-)	-69% (-)
the message "YOUR SPEED XX"		School Zone	8 (2002)	1				32 (-)	25 (-)	-7 (-)	-22% (-)
		School Zone	14 (2005)	1	2 to 4 months			50 (-)	42 (-)	-8 (-)	-16% (-)
		Advance of School Zone	14 (2005)	2	2 to 4 months			57 (6)	56 (7)	-1 (1)	-2% (3%)
		Advance of Signalized Intersection	14 (2005)	2	2 to 4 months			57 (10)	56 (12)	-1 (2)	-3% (4%)
		Non-freeway	9 (2005)	20	6 to 39 months			35 (3)	32 (2)	-3 (2)	-7% (4%)
		Collector Street/Residential Cross Street	10 (2007)	6	3 years			37 (2)	33 (1)	-4 (2)	-11% (4%)
		School Zone	26 (2006)	8	6 months			25 (2)	24 (2)	-1 (2)	-5% (7%)
	Rural	Work Zone on Interstate Highway	27 (2001)	3	5 weeks	38000		65 (2)	60 (2)	-5 (1)	-8% (1%)
		School Zone	28 (2003)	2	2 months	8000 to 9200		30 (5)	28 (4)	-2 (1)	-7% (1%)
		School Zone	28 (2003)	2	2 months	11800 to 29200		43 (1)	34 (0)	-9 (1)	-22% (1%)
		Two-Lane Collector Arterial, Near to School Zone	29 (2005)	4	7 months	1486 to 2794	1270 to 2533	34 (2)	32 (3)	-2 (1)	-3% (4%)
	Rural	Interstate Highway Work Zone	32 (2006)	1	1 week			65 (-)	63 (-)	-2 (-)	-3% (-)

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		ge Daily umes		85 <sup>th</sup> P	ercentile Spee	ds
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
Speed Activated Warning Sign -sign that displays warning		Posted Speed Limit=50/55mph	17 (2007)	4	at least 3 months					-1.4 (0.1)	
messages to speeding drivers		Work Zone at State Route	25 (2007)	3		122 to 250				-1 to -6.5	
		Multilane US Highway	25 (2007)	1						-1.6 to -4.7	
		Multilane Interstate	25 (2007)	2						-3.0 to -11.2	
	Urban	U.S. Highway Work Zone	32 (2006)	1	1 week			67 (-) PC; 65 (-) Truck	64 (-) PC; 63 (-) Truck	-3 (-) PC; -2 (-) Truck	-4% (-) PC; -3% (-) Truck
	Urban & Rural	Work Zone	35 (2007)	2				54 (4)	49 (6)	-5 (3)	-10% (5%)
	Rural	Four-Lane Divided Highway	43 (1999)	1		7000		73 (-)	69 (-)	-4 (-)	-5% (-)
		Curve on Interstate Freeway	44 (2003)	1		65000		63 (-)	62 (-)	-1 (-)	-2% (-)
Speed Activated Speed		Major Road	6 (2005)	1				42 (-)	37 (-)	-5 (-)	-12% (-)
Limit Reminder Sign		School Zone	24 (2001)	1	2 months			43 (-)	37 (-)	-6 (-)	-14% (-)
Variable Speed Limit Sign	Rural	Finland, weather- controlled	31 (1999)	3						-4.7 to -8	
	Rural	Freeway	40 (2005)	2				82 (1)	77 (6)	-5 (5)	-6% (6%)
Lower Speed Limit by 15+ mi/h	Urban & Rural	2 lane roads	21 (1997)	9	12-24 months			49 (5)	49 (4)	-0.1 (1)	-0.1% (3%)
Lower Speed Limit by 10 mi/h	Urban & Rural	2 & 4 lane roads	21 (1997)	34	12-24 months			50 (5)	50 (5)	-0.1 (1)	-0.6% (2%)
Lower Speed Limit by 5 mi/h	Urban & Rural	2 lane roads	21 (1997)	14	12-24 months			51 (6)	50 (6)	-0.3 (1)	-0.1% (2%)
Red Border Speed Limit Sign	Rural	Two-Lane highway	30 (2007)	3	8 to 14 months					-3 (4)	
One-Direction Large Arrow (W1-6) sign	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	1	5 days			47 (-)	47 (-)	0 (-)	0% (-)

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		e Daily mes		85 <sup>th</sup> P	ercentile Spee	eds
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
Add Flashers to Existing Curve Warning Sign	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	2	5 days			51 (2)	52 (3)	1 (1)	1% (1%)
Add Flags to Existing Curve Warning Sign	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	3	5 days			49 (3)	49 (3)	-0.3 (1.3)	-0.6% (3%)
Combinational Horizontal Alignment/Advisory Speed Sign	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	3	5 days			49 (3)	50 (2)	0.2 (1)	0.4% (2%)
Chevron Sign	Rural	Horizontal Curves	20 (2005)	1	5 days			52 (-)	52 (-)	0 (-)	0% (-)
				NARRO	WING						
Add Shoulder Markings to narrow lane	Rural	Two-Lane Road Through Small Town	3 (2008)	2	12 months			33 (2)	33 (1)	0.5 (1)	2% (2%)
	Urban	Freeway Exit Ramp	49 (2000)	4	2 weeks			38 (10)	37 (9)	-1 (1)	-2% (2%)
Add Center Line and Edge	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	2	12 months			34 (1)	35 (1)	1 (1)	2% (2%)
Line	Urban	Residential Area	50 (1984)	2	2 weeks			34 (2) Mean	34 (1) Mean	0 (0) Mean	1% (1%) Mean speed
	Rural	Two-Lane Road Day	52 (2006)	3				63 (2)	64 (3)	1 (4)	2% (7%)
	Rural	Two-Lane Road Night	52 (2006)	3				66 (4)	65 (3)	-1 (0)	-1% (0)
Longitudinal Rumble Strips -raised or grooved patterns installed on both inside edges of normal travel lane to narrow effective width	Rural	Rural High Speed Intersections on Two- lane Roadways	16 (2008)	9	at least 3 months					-4.5 (0.25)	
Road Diet -restripe road to reduce the number of lanes from 4 to 3	Urban	Arterial road	41 (1999)	1		24,000		51 (-)	47 (-)	-4 (-)	-8% (-)
Tubular Chanelizers -three foot high tubes used to create island in center of road	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	3	12 months	2060		40 (5)	39 (4)	-1 (1)	-2% (2%)

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size	After Measurement		ge Daily Imes		85 <sup>th</sup> P	ercentile Spe	eds
				(# of Sites)		Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
			A	CCESS C	ONTROLS						
Half Closure -Physical blockage of one direction of traffic for a short distance on a two-way street	Urban		1 (1999)	11		220 to 9540	151 to 9180	30 (4)	24 (5)	-6 (4)	-20% (12%)
<b>Diagonal Diverter</b> -a barrier placed diagonally across a four-legged intersection, preventing through movement	Urban		1 (1999)	7		474 to 2057	177 to 574	28 (5)	27 (5)	-1 (5)	-5% (17%)
Full Closure -physical street closure resulting in a dead-end	Urban		1 (1999)	2		1540 to 1980	850 to 1080	18 (3)	15 (3)	-3 (0)	-17% (3%)
			СОМ	BINATION	MEASURES						
Gateway Treatment -the combined use of signs,	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	3	12 months			46 (6)	44 (6)	-2 (2)	-5% (4%)
textured pavements, name plates, monuments, landscaping, and/or others placed at the entrance to a neighborhood that helps to communicate a sense of neighborhood identity	Urban		5 (2004)	1	9 months			30 (-)	28 (-)	-2 (-)	-7% (-)
Speed Hump + Speed Table	Urban		1 (1999)	4				36 (3)	29 (2)	-7 (4)	-17% (9%)
Speed Hump + Choker	Urban		1 (1999)	2		2456 to 3685	2593 to 2931	38 (2)	25 (0)	-13 (2)	-33% (3%)
Speed Table + Choker	Urban		1 (1999)	3				33 (1)	29 (1)	-4 (1)	-12% (3%)
Speed Table + Center Island	Urban		1 (1999)	2		6500 to 8440	6400 to 6780	37 (1)	29 (1)	-8 (3)	-22% (6%)
Half Closure + Median Barrier (-Median barriers are raised islands located along the centerline of a street and continuing through an intersection so as to block through movement at a cross street.)	Urban		1 (1999)	2		10160 to 10320	1120 to 2120	38 (2)	32 (4)	-6 (3)	-17% (8%)

Countermeasure	Area	Road Environment	Reference # (Year)	Sample Size (# of Sites)	After Measurement	Average Daily Volumes			85 <sup>th</sup> P	ercentile Spee	ds
						Before (veh)	After (veh)	Before (mph)	After (mph)	Change (mph)	%Change
Transverse Bar + Speed Feedback Sign	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	3	12 months	830 to 1680		47 (6)	43 (8)	-4 (3)	-8% (8%)
Speed Hump + Traffic Circle + Gateway Treatment			2 (2005)	2		2017 to 4213	1857 to 4635	32 (1)	25 (3)	-7 (2)	-22% (6%)
Textured Pavement + Neckdown + Pavement Marking			2 (2005)			3722 to 3792	3603	31 (-)	31 (-)	0 (-)	0% (-)
Edge Marking + Speed Limit Marking	Rural	Main Roads	3 (2008)	4	12 months			34 (3)	33 (2)	-1 (1)	-1% (4%)
Rubber Pedestrian Island + In-Roadway Yield to Pedestrian Crossing Sign (R1-6) (-Removable rubber curbing used to create island and concentrate pedestrian crossings at crosswalk.)	Rural Resort Area	High pedestrian crossing	22 (2002)	2	2 weeks			44 (2)	38 (1)	-6 (3)	-14% (6%)

Notes:

1) Reference table only includes U.S. studies, except where no U.S. studies on a treatment exist, then international studies are used.

2) Measures within parentheses in the "85%th Speeds" columns represent the standard deviations from the average values.

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