

Do you still have questions? Go to the Caltrans website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) and type "MUTCD" in the search box to find the *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.



# FIRST TIER SPEED CUSHION PROGRAM



The City of Encinitas contracts for law enforcement services with the San Diego County Sheriff. If you have an enforcement question or request, please contact The North Coastal Station at (760) 966-3500.



The City of Encinitas is committed to providing its residents with the safest and most efficient transportation system possible. This pamphlet is designed to provide you with useful and helpful information regarding traffic control.

**City of Encinitas  
Traffic Engineering**

**505 South Vulcan Ave.  
Encinitas, CA 92024**

**760-943-2211  
[traffic@encinitasca.gov](mailto:traffic@encinitasca.gov)**



## WHAT IS TRAFFIC CALMING?

Traffic calming treatments are changes in the street used to reduce the ability of drivers to travel at high speeds and to limit access to certain streets. This can be accomplished by implementing measures which create a street environment that either requires drivers to steer over or around a street feature.

## WHAT ARE SPEED CUSHIONS AND SPEED TABLES?

Speed Cushions are rubber or asphalt humps installed across the width of the road. Each speed cushion is 6 feet wide and 7 feet long with a maximum height of 3.5 inches and spaced at a minimum of 2 feet apart. Speed tables are traffic calming devices that raise the entire wheelbase of a vehicle to reduce its speed. Speed tables are longer than speed humps and flat-topped with a height of 3.5 inches and a length of 22 feet.

## WHERE CAN THEY BE INSTALLED?

Speed cushions can be installed on residential streets with a speed limit of 35 MPH or lower. The Fire Department is always consulted when speed cushion locations are under review.

## HOW CAN MY STREET GET SPEED CUSHIONS?

To begin the process of requesting speed cushions to be installed on a street, the resident must first submit a [petition](#). Residents who live on the qualifying street may request speed cushions and sign the petition. Only one signature per household will count toward petition endorsement. A minimum of ten different households are needed for the petition to be submitted.

## HOW CAN A STREET QUALIFY FOR SPEED CUSHIONS OR SPEED TABLES?

A street is eligible for Speed Cushions if it meets 3 criteria (if criteria 2 is met) or 4 criteria (if criteria 2 is not met):

1. The average daily traffic (ADT) is 500 or more vehicles
2. 85th percentile of vehicles is 7 MPH or more above the posted speed limit. The 85th percentile is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the traffic is moving
3. The roadway geometry causes safety concerns (sight distance, slope of the road, cross section)
4. The street lacks standard Active Transportation Facilities\*
5. Has at least one major pedestrian generator nearby (parks, schools)

\*Please see the *First Tier Traffic Management Flowchart* for more information



## WHAT HAPPENS IF MY STREET DOESN'T QUALIFY FOR SPEED CUSHIONS OR SPEED TABLES?

Streets that do not qualify for speed cushions may be put on the list for temporary speed feedback signs to be installed on their street.

## WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF SPEED CUSHIONS OR SPEED TABLES?

Pros: Reduces vehicle speeds, can reduce traffic volumes, preferred by larger vehicles, easy to install, may be removed and reinstalled, emergency vehicles are impacted less compared to traditional humps

Cons: May direct traffic to other streets, requires additional signage and striping, increases noise, may result in street sweeping issues, may delay emergency vehicles

## WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS TO CONTROL SPEED?

Installing speed cushions - a vertical speed control element - is just one way of reducing speeding. Other solutions may include installing traffic circles, medians, more speed limit signs, or more law enforcement. Other elements such as painting stripes on the street, landscaping and signing do not force a change in driver behavior, but they provide visual elements that may prompt people to drive more slowly.

Another strategy would be to address the root of the problem. Usually if motorists are speeding through a residential street, it is because they are avoiding the main streets for some reason (high congestion, traffic signal).

Most importantly, it's best for residents to set the example. To reduce speeds in the neighborhood residents can encourage neighbors to obey the speed limit and other regulatory signs. When speed enforcement is requested in the neighborhood, residents' patience is appreciated because law enforcement would have to prioritize their enforcement efforts.