

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



San Mateo County Fire Department

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Standard Detail and Specification Manual

Section: Response	Title: Traffic Calming Devices
Effective: January 1, 2026	Revised: November 30, 2025
Number: CFS-06	Authorized By: Patrick Griffin, Fire Marshal

PURPOSE:

Traffic Calming Devices/Speed Humps shall be prohibited unless approved by the San Mateo County Fire Department. This standard applies to streets in the San Mateo County Fire Department Jurisdiction, to which emergency response may be necessary. The information contained in this document is intended to assist the applicant in attaining compliance and to ensure that streets designated for emergency response purposes will be available for use at all times, and will not be obstructed in a way that delays emergency response times.

The installation of Traffic Calming /Speed Humps shall comply with the following regulations:

- 2025 California Fire Code Section 503.4.1
- National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1, Section 18.2.3.5.7

SPEED HUMP SPECIFICATIONS:

Location of speed humps must be proposed, and approved as follows:

- Proposed locations must be shown on a site plan submitted for approval.
- Proposed locations must be approved by the Fire Chief or his/her representative.
- Approved documents must be submitted to the San Mateo County Building Department.

DESIGN:

Speed humps must meet specific design criteria approved by the Fire Code Official for installations in fire lanes, in parking lots, and on public and private roads:

- Speed humps shall extend 12 feet in the direction of travel in parking lots or 20 feet on streets, reaching a maximum height of 3 inches at midpoint along a roughly circular path.
- Speed humps shall be placed perpendicular to the direction of travel, extending to each gutter lip.

- Each speed hump shall begin to taper 12 inches from, and finish flush to, the gutter lip.
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- “Bump” (30”X30”) warning signs with “15 mph” advisory speed plates shall be placed within 50 feet of each hump.
- White “Bump” pavement markings eight (8) feet in height shall be installed adjacent to each “Bump” warning sign.
- Each hump shall be marked with 6 inch wide white “triangular” type markings as shown on **(Attachment A)**. Raised pavement markers shall be placed on the centerline, positioned on the crest and in front of the hump from both approaches.

DESIGN ALTERATIONS:

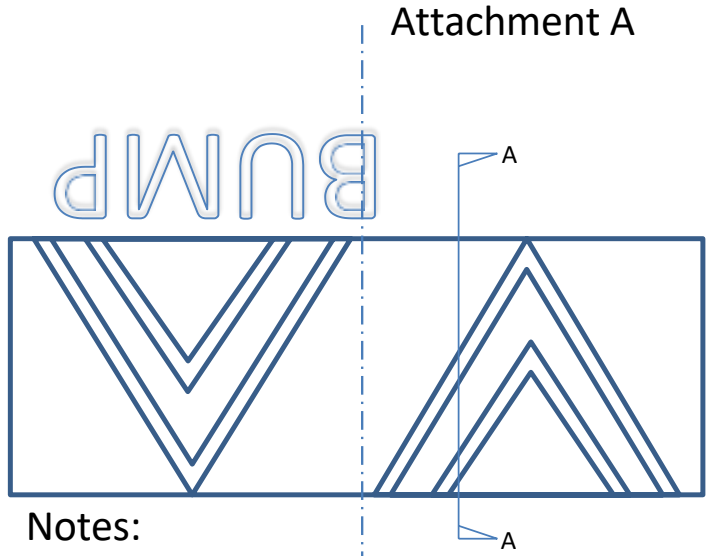
No alterations shall be made to the authorized speed hump dimensions when:

- Parking lots are resurfaced with slurry coating, painted stripping shall be restored with three working days.
- Resurfacing is by an additional lift (layer) of asphalt, the speed humps shall not be altered beyond the approved design criteria.
- Street maintenance is conducted, speed humps shall be stripped and maintained per the approved stripping pattern.

PLACEMENT:

- Speed humps shall be spaced no closer than 50 feet center to center.
- Speed humps shall not be located within 50 feet of driveway entrance off public or private street.
- Speed humps shall not be located at “T” intersections where vehicles would encounter hump during turning movements.
- Speed humps shall not be located within 20 feet of crosswalks or obvious pedestrian crossing points such as building entrances.
- Speed humps shall not be located within 20 feet of fire hydrants, fire department sprinkler connections or control valves.
- Speed humps shall not be located in the path between handicapped/disabled parking spaces and building entrance.
- Speed humps should be placed on property lines. Placement in front of residences should be avoided, especially those with a direct window view to the street.

Speed Hump Details



Notes:

1. Speed humps shall be located by the engineer, and/or as shown on plan
2. Speed hump shall be constructed to a height of 3" plus/minus 1/4" at midpoint. The corresponding shape follow a circular arc (see Section A-A).
3. Asphalt shall be placed in 2 lifts. 1" minimum at highest point.
4. Asphalt shall be Type III-C3-AR4000 (1/2") with 6% asphalt binder or as directed by the engineer.

BUMP

NTS
8'

