San Diego County Fire Protection District
FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

Fire Marshal Bulletin Number: 2025-02

Subject: Traffic Calming Devises

Effective Date: December 22, 2025

Purpose: The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarification on the requirements for the installation of proposed Speed Bumps and Traffic Calming Devices on Fire Apparatus Access Roads.

Background and Code Requirements

The County of San Diego 2023 Consolidated Fire Code contains the following provisions applicable to fire apparatus access roads and traffic calming devices:

Sec. 202 DEFINITIONS.
FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS ROAD. A road that provides fire apparatus access from a fire station to a facility, building or portion thereof. This is a general term that includes, but is not limited to a fire lane, public street, private street, driveway, parking lot lane and access roadway.

Sec. 501.3.2 Fire apparatus access modifications. Plans for the modification of fire apparatus access road shall be submitted to the fire code official for review and approval prior to construction or modification of any fire apparatus road.

Sec. 503.4.1 Traffic calming devices. Traffic calming devices (including, but not limited to, speed bumps, speed humps, speed control dips, etc.) shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official.

Scope

Speed Bumps, Speed Humps, Speed Tables, Dips and any other types of proposed Traffic Calming Devises are prohibited and may not be installed, unless approved by San Diego County Fire Protection District. This bulletin explains the requirements for the construction, location and identification of Speed Bumps and Speed Tables (Traffic Calming Devises) on Fire Apparatus Access Road, and the process to request approval of design and installation.

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Definitions

Speed Bump – Asphalt mounds, parabolic in shape, covering 12 feet of street with a height between 3 ¼ and 3 ¾ inches. When cutouts are provided the center mound or bump, has a width of 5 ½ feet to accommodate the wheelbase of fire apparatus. The bumps adjacent to the center bump vary in width to accommodate the street width. Depending on the street width, a 5 ½ foot bump may be placed in each travel lane (see attached detail drawings). Speed bumps may be approved by the Fire District for use on a case-by-case basis.

Speed Table – An elongated speed hump, incorporating a 10-foot flat surface in the middle and covering a total of 22 feet of street, with a height between 3 ¼ and 3 ¾ inches (see attached detail drawings). Speed tables may be approved by the Fire District for use on a case-by-case basis.

Specifications

1. Construction Specifications (Speed Bumps with Cut Outs)

Upon installation of speed bumps, the asphalt concrete speed bumps will have a width of 12 feet, a minimum height of three and one-quarter inches and a maximum height of three and three-quarters inches (3 ¼" to 3 ¾"), and a vertical curvature as shown in the Detail drawings. The center bump (or bumps if the design requires one bump in each travel lane) will be five and one-half (5 ½') feet across. There will be a gap between bumps of one foot – three inches (1' - 3") to accommodate the wheelbase of fire apparatus. The outside speed bumps will extend from the center bump to the lip of gutter. There will be a two-foot (2') horizontal taper originating at the crest of the speed bump and converging at the lip of curb or pavement.

2. Construction Specifications (Speed Tables)

Upon installation of speed tables, the asphalt concrete speed tables will have a width of 22 feet, made up of a 6' long vertical curvature reaching a minimum height of three and one-quarter inches and a maximum height of three and three-quarters inches (3 ¼" to 3¾") on each end of a 10 foot long flat surface. There will be a two-foot (2') horizontal taper originating at the crest of the speed table and converging at the lip of curb or pavement.

3. Location Selection Guidelines

In selecting precise locations for speed bump and table installation, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:

a. Speed bumps and tables shall not be located over manholes, water valves, or street monuments, or whenever possible, within ten (10) feet of fire hydrants, as they may prevent/impede access to these facilities.

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b. Speed bumps and tables should be located five to ten feet away from driveways, whenever possible, to minimize their effect on driveway access.

c. Speed bumps and tables should be located on or near property lines, whenever possible, to minimize the impact on (access to) individual properties.

d. Speed bumps and tables should be located near streetlights, whenever possible, in order to enhance their visibility at night.

e. Speed bumps and tables should be located a minimum distance of 200 feet from the end of the road segment, whenever possible, and should never be located within a corner radius.

f. No speed bumps and tables shall be located on any horizontal curve(s) with less than a 650-foot radius.

g. Speed bumps and tables shall be spaced at a minimum interval of 250 feet.

h. Speed bumps and tables shall not be placed on grades exceeding 8% at points within 150 feet of roadway intersections or where there is limited sight distance.

i. Speed bumps and tables shall extend the full length of the driving surface when sidewalks are present.

4. Signs and Markings

Two types of advanced warning devices shall be used to alert motorists of upcoming speed bumps: street signs and pavement markings.

a. Street Signs

Signage for a speed bump shall include a 30-inch sign stating “SPEED BUMP” in four-inch (4”) letters and a second line with an advisory speed of 15 MPH. Above this text is a pictorial of a speed bump.

Signage for a speed table shall include a 30-inch sign stating “SPEED TABLE” in four-inch (4”) letters and a second line with an advisory speed of 20 MPH. Above this text is a pictorial of a speed table.

b. Pavement Markings

Pavement markings for speed bumps shall include diamond striping on the center bump(s) and chevron markings on the side bumps. A reflective pavement marker will

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indicate the middle of the center bump(s) to assist fire apparatus drivers to center their vehicle over the bump (see attached detail drawings).

Pavement markings for speed tables shall include twelve-inch (12”) wide stripes, forming a chevron, extending six feet (6’) from the approach edge of the speed table to the apex of the table and centered in each travel lane.

Process to Request Installation

1. New Project, New Development or new Fire Apparatus Access Road

To request installation of speed bumps or speed tables on a proposed Fire Apparatus Access Road or as part of a new proposed development, either as a discretionary project or ministerial building permit project, the plans for that specific project (which could include a Site Plan, Plot Plan, Building Permit plot plan, Grading Plan, Improvement Plan, etc. or combination thereof) will need to demonstrate compliance with the Specifications of this bulletin. District staff will review the plans for the project and determine if the proposed speed bumps or tables are approved. Contact the San Diego County Fire Protection District at Fire@sdcounty.ca.gov with any questions.

2. Existing Fire Apparatus Access Road

To request installation of speed bumps or speed tables on an existing Fire Apparatus Access Road, contact the San Diego County Fire Protection District at Fire@sdcounty.ca.gov. Information regarding the existing road and the proposed modification will be required in the email and plans of the proposed modification which demonstrate compliance with the Specifications of this bulletin will need to be submitted to the District when requested by staff. District staff will review the plans for the modification and determine if the proposed speed bumps or tables are approved and can be installed.

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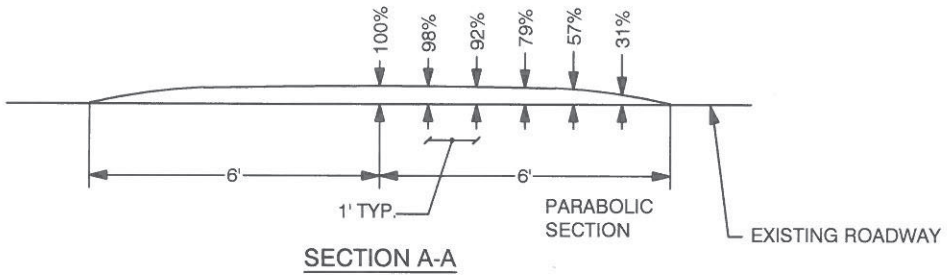
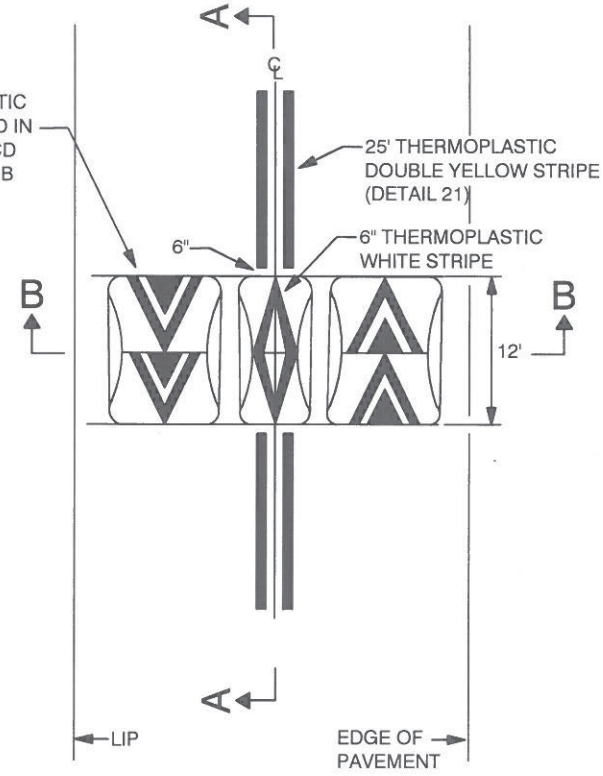
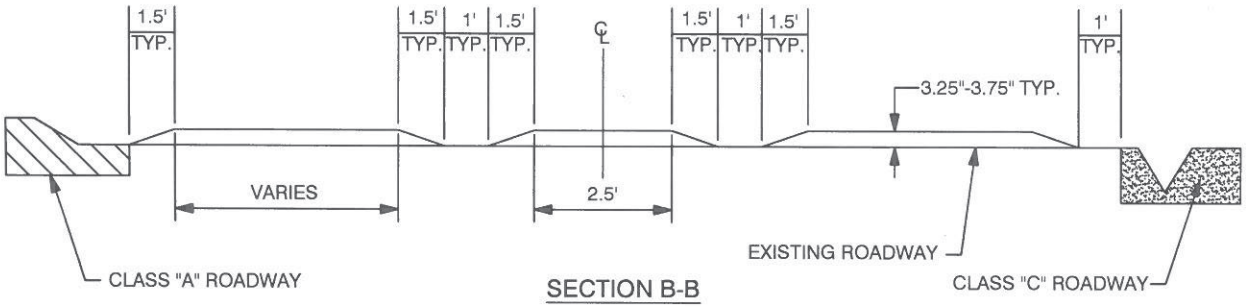


SECTION A-A



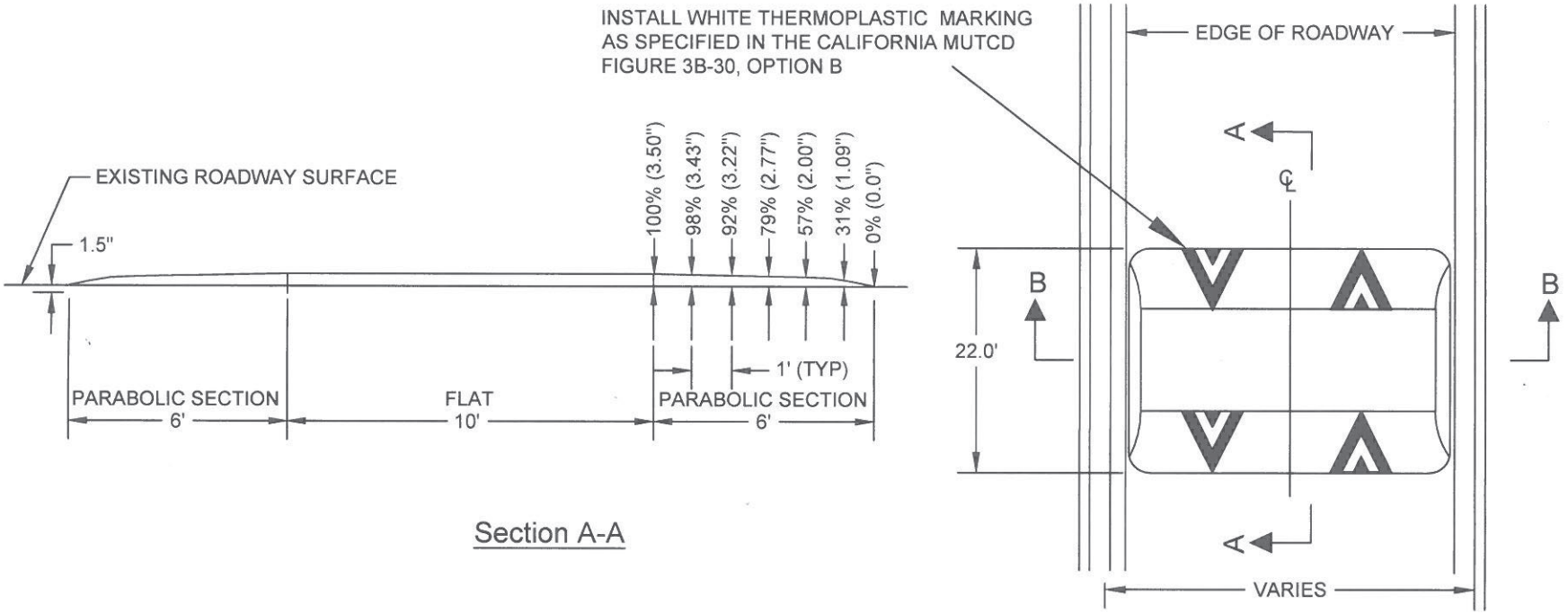


SECTION B-B

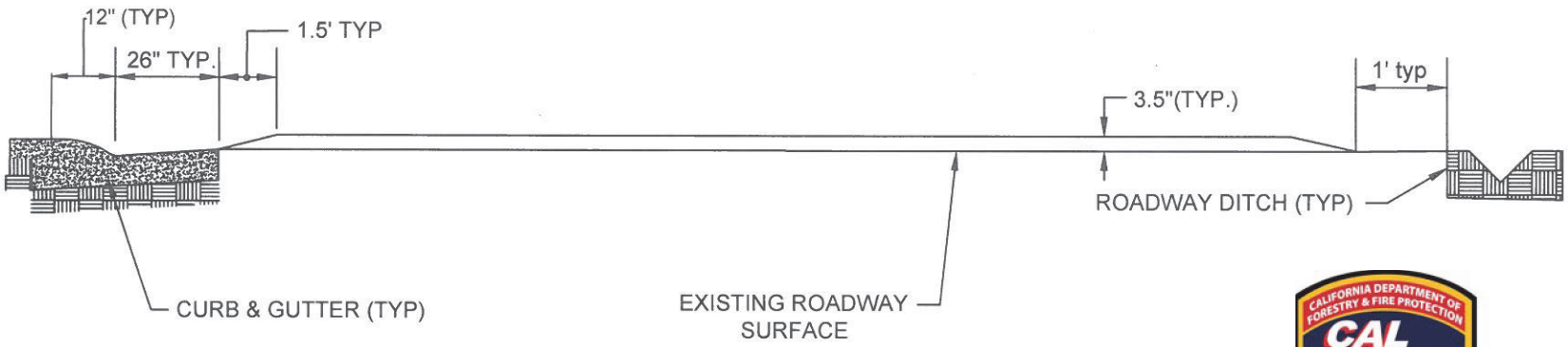
SPEED BUMP WITH CUT OUTS DETAIL

Drawing Not to Scale

12-22-2025



Section A-A

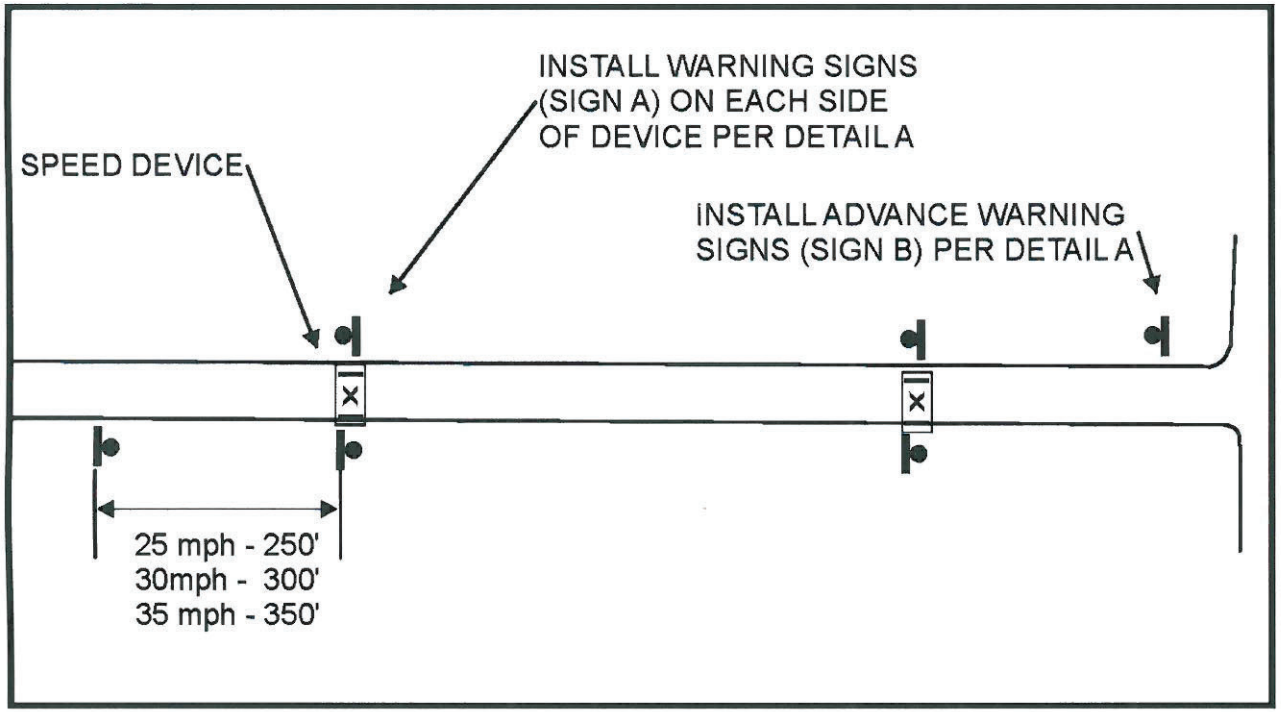


Section B-B

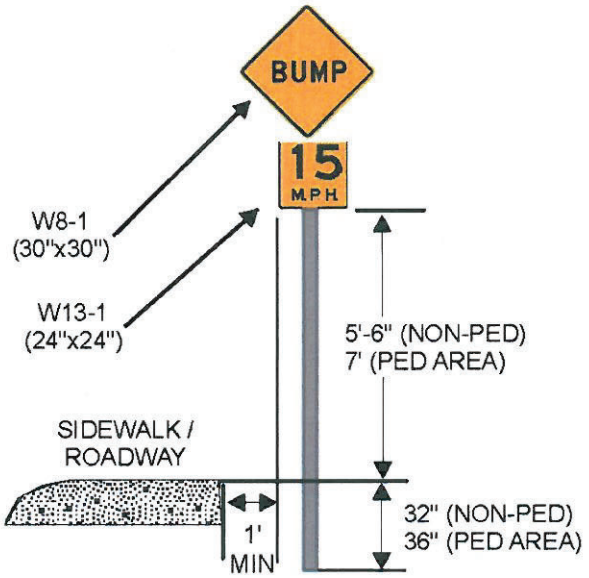
SPEED TABLE DETAIL

Drawing Not to Scale

12-22-2025



TYPICAL SPEED DEVICE LAYOUT

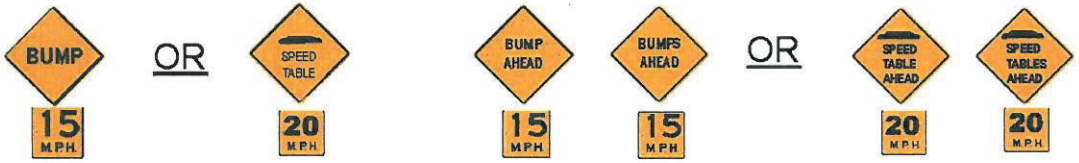


NOTES:
1. INSTALL SIGNS ON 12' (NON-PED) OR 14' (PED AREA) 4"X4" WOOD POST.

2. PEDESTRIAN AREA IS WHERE ANY PORTION OF SIGN EXTENDS OVER ANY PAVED ROADWAY, SIDEWALK OR PATHWAY.

3. SIGN TYPES AND LOCATIONS ARE SHOWN ON THE PROJECT MAPS.

DETAIL A



BUMP WARNING SIGN | SPEED TABLE WARNING SIGN | ADVANCE SPEED BUMP(S) WARNING SIGN | ADVANCE SPEED TABLE(S) WARNING SIGN

SIGN A | SIGN B

SPEED DEVICE WARNING SIGN LAYOUT DETAIL

Drawing Not to Scale

12-22-2025