



Speed Reduction Markings



DESCRIPTION:

Speed reduction markings are a series of various shapes of transverse pavement markings set at progressively reduced spacing, intended to enhance the driver's perception of speed. Essentially, gradually decreasing distance between markings gives the driver the illusion of traveling faster than they actually are and thus ideally causing them to slow down. Such markings are most appropriate for unexpected curves and may be short transverse markings placed along each edge of the lane, as described in MUTCD Section 3B.22. Transverse markings are placed within the lane, as described in MUTCD Section 3B.26 as advance speed hump markings. Both these types of markings are also called Optical Speed Bars. Some jurisdictions have used chevron-shaped in-lane markings, otherwise known as Converging Chevron Markings.

Advantages

- Markings are relatively easy and low cost to install.
- Traffic striping does not slow emergency vehicles.

Disadvantages

- Long-term effectiveness is undocumented.
- Regular maintenance is required. Markings must be reapplied approximately every 6 years.

APPLICATION:

On neighborhood local or collector streets where a problem of speeding traffic has been documented, speed reduction markings may be applied. Because optical speed bars and converging chevron markings are placed in the tire paths of vehicles, they are subject to increased wear. For this reason, thermoplastic marking material is usually used instead of paint.

Application of these types of speed reduction markings should conform to the standards and guidance in the MUTCD.

Effectiveness Scorecard

	Speed	
	Volume	
	Cut-through	
	Crashes	
	Emergency Vehicle	
	Pedestrian	
	Bicycle	
	Noise	
	Cost	\$

Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Not Applicable



Quick Glance

