



Neckdowns and Bulbouts



DESCRIPTION:

Neckdowns are raised curb extensions at intersections that reduce the roadway width from curb to curb. Neckdowns increase pedestrian comfort and safety at intersections by shortening crossing distances for pedestrians and drawing attention to pedestrians via raised peninsulas. They also tighten the curb radii at the corners, reducing the speeds of turning vehicles. The magnitude of speed reduction is dependent on the spacing of neckdowns between points that require drivers to slow.

APPLICATION:

Neckdowns implemented midblock as a vehicle speed control measure and pedestrian enhancement are most effective when constructed with permanent raised curbs but can be implemented using striping. Bulbouts occur at the corners of intersections using raised curbs to extend the sidewalks and narrow the travel lanes. This slows vehicles by providing visual cues of pedestrian activity as well as by reducing the curb radii. Both the crossing distance and the time pedestrians are exposed to traffic are reduced.

Advantages

- Decreases vehicle speeds
- Reduces pedestrian crossing distance
- Clearly delineates areas of pedestrian activity

Disadvantages

- May reduce on-street parking
- Complicates drainage design
- Reduces bicycle lane and/or side of road area used by bicyclists
- May slow right-turning emergency response vehicles

Effectiveness Scorecard

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

Very Good
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Not Applicable



Quick Glance

