

USE OF SPEED HUMPS

The City of Caldwell does not generally allow for the installation of speed humps on our public streets. The reasons include:

Impact on Emergency Services

Speed humps cause ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to slow down, delaying their response time in critical situations. Additionally, navigating over the humps is dangerous for some patients being transported by ambulance.

Safety

Speed humps cause accidents when inattentive drivers hit a hump and the vehicle veers off the road or into the oncoming lane. Similarly, inattentive drivers following behind vehicles have rear-ended vehicles braking quickly for the hump. Speed humps are also dangerous for motorcyclists and bicyclists and scooters.

Lack of Effectiveness

Studies have found that many drivers tend to speed up in-between speed humps to make up for the time they lost going over the hump.

Vehicle Damage

Speed humps cause wear and tear on tires, brakes, suspension systems, shock absorbers and other vehicle components.

Impacts to Neighbors

Vehicles going over speed humps cause loud noises, especially trucks or trailers with loose loads, which is annoying to people living or working nearby. Speed humps can also divert drivers to other parallel streets, potentially shifting the problem to another location.

Road Maintenance

Speed humps make winter maintenance more difficult, for activities such as snow removal.

Potential Alternatives

Alternatives that could be considered to reduce vehicle speeds (traffic calming) include radar speed signs, chicanes (creating a zig-zag roadway), traffic circles, lane narrowing and increased enforcement.