

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do physical traffic calming features such as speed humps / cushions cause vibration?

There has been lots of research on this, for example, a [Transport Research Laboratory report](#), and it has not found any conclusive evidence that traffic-induced vibrations from traffic calming can cause building damage. However vibrations from traffic calming will carry further through some ground conditions, such as Alluvium which could be a disturbance if properties are in close proximity.

Will this traffic calming proposal cause more congestion?

By generating a consistent flow of vehicles, traffic calming can result in lower and more consistent traffic speeds which in turn helps reduce congestion. Implementing traffic calming can also reduce the volume of traffic choosing to use that road.

Will the traffic calming produce a lot of noise?

Traffic calming features can produce some noise when vehicles are driven over them too fast. However, the reduction in traffic speeds and a smoother driving style can result in a reduction in overall noise level.

Do features such as speed humps / cushions cause damage to vehicles?

Vehicles travelling over these features at appropriate speeds should not suffer damage. Studies have been carried out investigating the effect of repeatedly traversing road humps and no damage was seen. The Highway Code tells motorists that when they approach traffic calming features they should reduce their speed, therefore the assumption is that drivers would negotiate these features at an appropriate speed.

Does traffic calming cause higher levels of pollution?

The traffic calming features should encourage a smoother driving style with less acceleration and braking. This should result in reduced emissions.

Does traffic calming improve road safety?

Traffic calming measures have been shown to reduce the frequency of accidents involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists [Research from the Department for Transport](#) shows that even a 1mph reduction in speed resulted in 6% less collisions.

Is traffic calming a problem for emergency vehicles?

If the emergency vehicle is on an emergency call, the driver may want to slow down to negotiate the feature and in which case this may increase the response time.

Do speed humps create additional road maintenance costs?

If constructed correctly and to specification a traffic calming feature should form part of the highway and not create a maintenance issue.

Do speed humps reduce traffic speeds?

Speed humps have proved to be effective in reducing traffic speed in many locations across the borough where they have been installed.

Who pays for them?

The scheme is funded by Transport for London (TfL). Funding is available to all London councils via the Local Implementation Plan programme to carry out road safety improvements and therefore it is not funded from council tax revenue.