Neighborhood Slow Zone
Elmhurst, Queens

Jan 2013
What is a Neighborhood Slow Zone?

- Speed limit set at 20mph
- Small, self-contained area (~5x5 blocks or ¼ mile diameter)
- Announced with signage and gateways
- Self-enforcing via speed bumps
- 20mph markings remind drivers to slow down
**Safety Impacts**

- **London, UK:**
  - 46% reduction in fatal and severe injury crashes, as compared to untreated areas
  - Average speeds reduced 9mph
  - No collision migration (crashes did not increase in adjacent areas)

- **The Netherlands**
  - Average decrease of injuries of ~25% in 30 km (18 mph) zones

- **Barcelona**
  - Crash rates dropped up to 27%
  - Similar programs have also been adopted in Berlin, Zurich, Dublin, Stockholm & Helsinki
Quality-of-Life Improvements

- Reduced traffic noise
- Reduced cut-through traffic
- More social streets
Slow Zone Components: Gateways

- Roadway is narrowed by sign base, signs and markings to bring down vehicle speeds
- Drivers are clearly alerted that they are entering a traffic calmed zone
- 1-2 parking spaces removed at each gateway (“daylighting”)
Slow Zone Components: Speed Bumps

- Keep vehicle speeds around 20mph; 15 mph near schools
- ~30% reduction in mid-block crashes
- ~20% reduction in speeds
- Speed bumps distributed evenly throughout the Slow Zone
- Key element in making the Slow Zone “self-enforcing”
- Follow standard speed bump criteria when choosing streets for installation
Speed Humps vs Speed Bumps

- NYC DOT uses the term Bump for what technically is a speed Hump
- Speed Hump
  - Gradual rise designed to be taken at 15-20mph
  - 3 to 4 inches in height
- Speed Bump
  - Abrupt rise designed to be taken at 5mph or less
  - 3 to 6 inches in height
Slow Zone Components: 20 MPH Markings

- Install on streets in between or infeasible for speed bumps
- Exclude on:
  - Streets leaving the Slow Zone
  - Very short blocks
Elmhurst Slow Zone Application

• Slow Zone application
  • Application submitted by P.S. 89 Queens
• Proposed Implementation:
  • February 2013 Speed Hump Installation
  • June 2013 Signs and Markings
• 1 of 4 zones for Queens
• DOT installing 13 Slow Zones citywide in 2012-2013
Ideal size (.30 sq mi)
Good boundaries (wide busy streets)
Average Injuries per year 44.6
Per Mile, more dangerous than 74% of Queens streets
2 Schools
5 Pre-k/Head Start/Daycare Centers

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<th>Crashes</th>
<th>Letters of Support</th>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Senior Centers</th>
<th>Daycare</th>
<th>Strong Boundaries</th>
<th>Subway Stations</th>
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Proposed Slow Zone

91st Pl & Corona Ave
Proposed Slow Zone

- 23 **proposed** speed bumps
- 22 proposed gateways

*Original zone boundaries were adjusted*