



# Chicane



## DESCRIPTION:

Chicanes are curb extensions that alternate from one side of the roadway to the other, forming s-shaped curves. Chicanes insert curvature in an otherwise straight stretch of roadway. They generally fall into two categories: single-lane and two-way. Single lane chicanes consist of staggered build outs narrowing the road so that traffic in one direction has to give way to opposing traffic. Two-way chicanes use build outs to provide curvature, but the lanes are separated by road markings or a central island.

## APPLICATION:

On a neighborhood street with a recorded speed problem, chicanes may be installed to reduce speeds in order to negotiate the lateral displacements in the vehicle path. They are most effective when placed on existing streets that have long, straight, flat roadway sections. They are also most effective when used in a series. They are useful at locations where speed is a problem, but the noise associated with speed humps and related measures would be unacceptable.

## Advantages

- Offer visual traffic calming effect by reducing line of sight
- Can reduce pedestrian crossing distance
- Reduces travel speeds
- Negotiable by emergency vehicles
- Provide opportunities for streetscaping

## Disadvantages

- May divert traffic to adjacent roadways
- The effect on vehicle speeds is limited
- May require bicyclists to merge with vehicular traffic for a short distance
- May require removal of some on-street parking
- Curb realignment and landscaping can be costly, especially if there are drainage issues

## Effectiveness Scorecard

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

Very Good   
 Good   
 Fair  
 Poor   
 Not Applicable



## Quick Glance

