

Painted Curb Extensions (Bump Outs)



Photo: SMTC

Project Description

Also called “bulb outs”, “bump outs”, and “neckdowns”, curb extensions narrow the width of the street, and reduce crossing distances for pedestrians. This narrowing effect helps to slow vehicles as they approach intersections near key crossing points.

Pop-up curb extensions can be installed quickly by a small team of volunteers with minimal traffic control. The *Tactical Urbanism Guide to Materials and Design* recommends using paint and flexible delineator posts to define the bump-out area; planters, cones, and straw bales can also be used.

Evaluation Topics

- Do more vehicles stop for pedestrians?
- Do more pedestrians use a crosswalk at a bump-out?
- Are turning movements slower?

Quick Notes

- Curb extensions can remain in place for up to six months, or until the paint fades.
- Curb extension projects cannot eliminate traffic lanes and cannot reduce lane widths below 10 feet.
- Curb extensions should be installed where cars are currently not allowed to park, which is typically near intersections.