

# Traffic Calming Fact Sheets

May 2018 Update

## Choker

### Description:

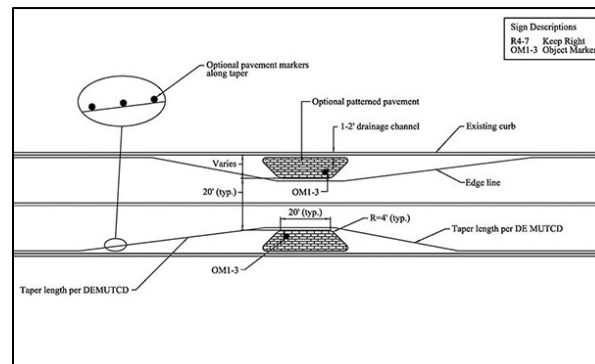
- Curb extension is a lateral horizontal extension of the sidewalk into the street, resulting in a narrower roadway section
- If located at an intersection, it is called a corner extension or a bulb-out
- If located midblock, it is referred to as a choker
- Narrowing of a roadway through the use of curb extensions or roadside islands

### Applications:

- Can be created by a pair of curb extensions, often landscaped
- Encourages lower travel speeds by reducing motorist margin of error
- One-lane choker forces two-way traffic to take turns going through the pinch point
- If the pinch point is angled relative to the roadway, it is called an angled choker
- Can be located at any spacing desired
- May be suitable for a mid-block crosswalk
- Appropriate for arterials, collectors, or local streets



(Source: City of An Arbor, Michigan)



(Source: Delaware DOT)

**ITE/FHWA Traffic Calming EPrimer:** [https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic\\_caln.cfm](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/traffic_caln.cfm)

### Design/Installation Issues:

- Only applicable for mid-block locations
- Can be used on a one-lane one-way and two-lane two-way street
- Most easily installed on a closed-section road (i.e. curb and gutter)
- Applicable with or without dedicated bicycle facilities
- Applicable on streets with, and can protect, on-street parking
- Appropriate for any speed limit
- Appropriate along bus routes
- Typical width of 6 to 8 feet; offset from through traffic by approximately 1.5 feet
- Locations near streetlights are preferable
- Length of choker island should be at least 20 feet

### Potential Impacts:

- Encourages lower speeds by funneling it through the pinch point
- Can result in shorter pedestrian crossing distances if a mid-block crossing is provided
- May force bicyclists and motor vehicles to share the travel lane
- May require some parking removal
- May require relocation of drainage features and utilities

### Emergency Response Issues:

- Retains sufficient width for ease of use for emergency vehicles

### Typical Cost (2017 dollars):

- Between \$1,500 and \$20,000, depending on length and width of barriers