

## Dean Bloch

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**From:** Rob Mullin <r.mullin@cvfrs.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 11:29 AM  
**To:** Dean Bloch  
**Subject:** speed tables/bumps

Dean,

I have experience with speed bumps and speed tables during my time with the Burlington Fire Department. It really depends what they are contemplating putting in on Greenbush Rd. If you are talking actual speed bumps, they are much higher and much more intrusive, any responding apparatus would have to come almost to a complete stop for each bump that is installed. With that being said, with the time that it will take to slow down the apparatus, cross the bump at a crawl and then accelerate again, you could count on 30 additional seconds per bump for response.

If you are talking about speed tables, they are not as high, are longer to cross and not as much of an issue, but the apparatus still needs to slow down while crossing them. At any speed, it is a jarring bump to go over. With a speed table, with the slowing down, crossing it and acceleration, you could count on 15 additional seconds per table for response times.

The response times are not the only issue to think about here. Let's consider a patient in the back of an ambulance going over every one of these bumps or tables. It is a jarring movement as a driver or passenger, you could multiply it ten fold for a patient in the back of an ambulance, especially if that patient is on a backboard.

The other thing to consider is the added abuse to our apparatus. We travel on a lot of dirt roads, our apparatus suspension system takes a beating on the dirt roads, these bumps or tables are just going to compound that abuse.

There was a comment about gaps in the tables for emergency vehicles, my experience is that ALL driver's use those gaps and not just emergency vehicles, pretty much rendering the bump or table useless, because they do not have to slow down. My suggestion to curb the speeding would be a more aggressive law enforcement presence.

In response to the comment about our apparatus traveling the speed limit, during non-emergency times, we try to follow the posted speed limits. During an emergency response, state law allows us to exceed the posted speed limit as long as we exercise due regard with safety to others. All of our drivers have to attend annual Emergency Vehicle Driver's Training.

The bottom line is this; in the city, they were going to be installed no matter what, and as apparatus operators, we had to get used to them and slow down. I can remember several times when they were forgotten and the firefighters or patients would get a heck of a jolt(to the point of driving our heads onto the ceilings and bouncing patients on the stretcher) Over time, we got used to them. Depending on the number of them, it will slow our response down to a certain extent.

If there are any other concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.



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