



Iris Weinshall, Commissioner

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DOT ANNOUNCES INSTALLATION OF NEARLY 100 NEW SPEED REDUCERS NEAR SCHOOLS IN 2006

Safety Improvements Continue to be Implemented at 135 Priority Schools

The New York City Department of Transportation today announced that it installed 99 speed reducers (speed bumps) around city schools in 2006, including 35 new reducers at “priority schools” identified under the Safe Routes to School Program. Speed reducers have been shown to be among the most effective of all traffic calming devices at reducing vehicle speeds, and since 2004 DOT has installed more than 200 of them in the vicinity of schools in all five boroughs.

“Speed reducers are one of a number of tools we’re using to encourage drivers to slow down and take a little extra time to navigate the busy streets around our city’s schools,” said Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall. “Keeping our children safe on their way to and from school is equally as important as keeping them safe during the school day.”

In 2004, DOT introduced the Safe Routes to School initiative, a program designed to focus safety improvements at city schools with the highest accident rates. DOT examined accident histories around the city’s 1,471 elementary and middle schools and established a list of 135 priority schools to be considered for traffic safety improvements. Earlier this year, as the first Safe Routes to School studies were being completed, work began on a number of the recommendations made in the Safe Routes to School reports. To date DOT has installed more than 1,500 signs, 72 high visibility school crosswalks and 29 traditional crosswalks, 35 speed reducers, and made 17 traffic signal improvements around priority schools.

As part of the Safe Routes to School initiative, comprehensive capital improvement plans will also be developed for 32 of the 135 priority schools and construction on safety enhancements such as neckdowns (sidewalk extensions that slow turning vehicles and narrow the crossing distance for pedestrians,) pedestrian islands, raised medians and sidewalk widening projects is expected to begin in 2007.



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Of the 1,000 speed reducers citywide, more than 600 are now in the vicinity of schools. Examples of new speed reducers include:

The Bronx - At IS 131 DOT installed this speed reducer along Bolton Avenue between Lafayette and Story Avenues.



Brooklyn – In August, DOT installed this speed reducer along Palmetto Street, outside IS 291 in Bushwick.





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Manhattan - At Manhattan's MS 54, a motorist slows to navigate a speed reducer on 107th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues.



Queens - A new speed reducer helps slow traffic on 98th Street between 37th and 38th Avenues at Queens's School of the Transfiguration.





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Staten Island - A new speed reducer and roadway marking help slow traffic along Henderson Avenue between Broadway and Campbell Avenue outside PS 18.



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