

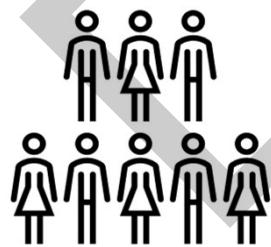


# Speed Reduction Audit

Austin City Auditor's Office | January 2026

1

## Even small reductions in speed can save lives



11,775 U.S. traffic fatalities  
from speeding in 2023  
(29% of all traffic fatalities)



# Speed reduction efforts come in many forms



## Education



## Enforcement



## Engineering



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3

## Finding 1:

The City has a proactive approach to speed reduction.

Most projects we reviewed resulted in lower speeds.

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4

# The City has a risk-based approach to speed reduction



## Proactive Speed Limit Changes



## Risk-Based Approach to Identifying Traffic Calming Project Sites



### City project prioritization factors include:

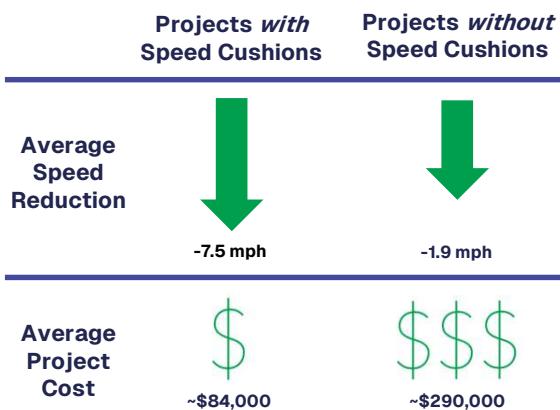
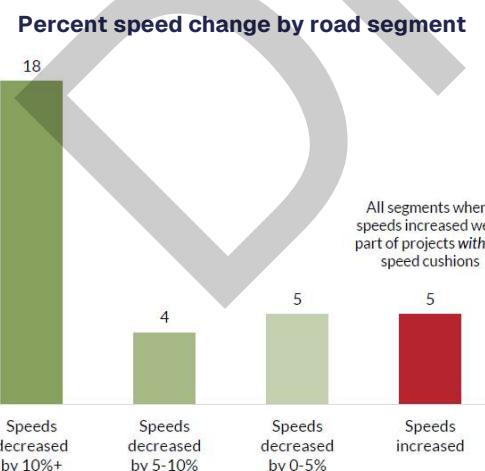
- Measured speeds
- Crashes
- Presence of sidewalks
- Proximity to schools, transit sites, and equity analysis zones

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5

# Most projects lowered speeds, but effectiveness and costs varied



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6



## Finding 2:

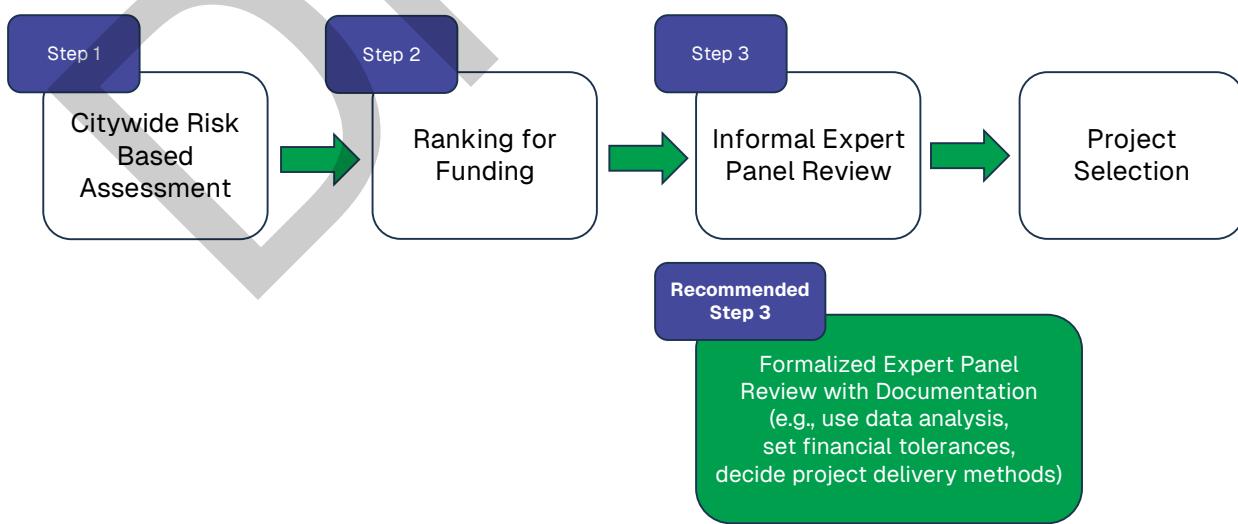
**The City does not document key information related to selecting and delivering projects.**

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7

7

**The City has not formally documented all decision points for traffic calming projects**



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8

8



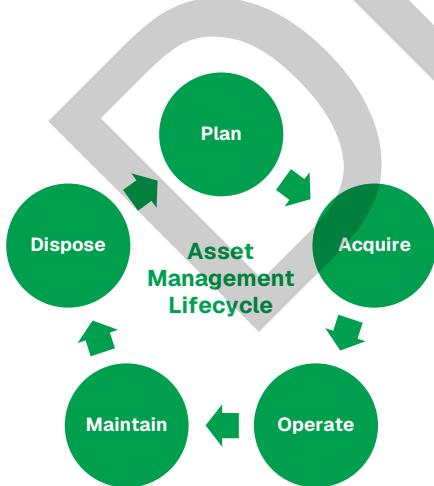
## Finding 3:

The Speed Management program has not established a maintenance plan for their assets.

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### Maintenance planning and activities vary for speed reduction assets



Group	Speed Management	Signs & Markings
Managed Assets & Expected Lifespan	Speed cushions (~20-25 years)	Speed limit signs (~10 years) & Delineator posts (~2-4 years)
Condition Standards	No	Yes
Maintenance Plan	No	Yes

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10

## Some of the City's speed reduction assets have shown signs of wear and tear



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11

## Innovation Opportunity



### Traffic Calming Projects:

#### Funding Can Come from Many Sources



Private Funding



Tax Levies



Bonds



Council District Office Allocation

General Fund/  
Operating Budget

#### Can be Constructed by Contractors, City Staff, or a Mix

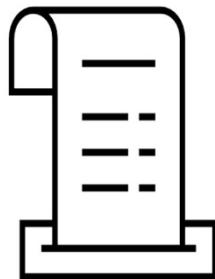


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12

12

## Additional Observation: Traffic enforcement has been limited



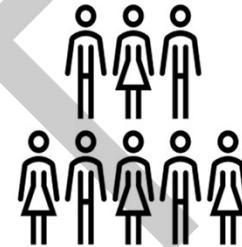
Speeding citations **down**  
90% since 2015



**Limited** police capacity  
for traffic enforcement



Speed cushions **not**  
arterial streets



Some residents **want**  
traffic enforcement

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13



## Recommendations:

Austin Transportation and Public Works should:



1. Document their process for project selection and delivery decisions.



2. Incorporate analyses to leverage data to aid project selection decisions.



3. Develop an asset management and maintenance plan for its key speed reduction assets.

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14