General

Transverse rumble strips are an effective safety measure at locations where drivers need to be alerted to an upcoming stop condition after traveling in a monotonous roadway environment at high running speeds. They provide a vibro-tactile (feel) and auditory (hear) cue to enhance intersection awareness for the drivers approaching on the stop-controlled legs.

Transverse rumble strips are normally used where engineering judgment indicates a special need due to stopping sight distance restrictions, high approach speeds, or a history of stop sign violation collisions.

Rumble strips are particularly suitable for rural intersections where noise and vibration concerns can be minimized. In semi-urban or urban areas, where development may be present adjacent to intersections, rumble strips may generate excessive noise for local residents.

At such urban locations, a decision to install rumble strips should be based on careful assessment of site-specific conditions (i.e., an adequate buffer zone between buildings and the intersection).

Transverse rumble strips were recommended in the Methods of Reducing Collisions on Alberta Roads (MORCOAR) project as a relatively inexpensive and effective means of reducing the number of collisions at unsignalized intersections.

Standard

Alberta Transportation’s practice is to install transverse rumble strips in advance of all stop-controlled intersections (on the stop-controlled approaches) in rural areas where the posted speed limit is 80 km/h or greater and the highway and intersecting approaches are paved (and under provincial jurisdiction).

Transverse rumble strips are not installed in low speed (posted speed of 70 km/h or less on stop-controlled approaches) and urban environments. Within these environments, rumble strips are not required due to shorter stopping sight distances and heightened driver expectation of encountering stop conditions. However, the need for rumble strips may be reviewed for extreme cases within urban areas.

In addition, transverse rumble strips are not installed within 300 m of a residence (including in rural areas) to avoid noise concerns.

When warranted, transverse rumble strips are installed in accordance with drawing CB6-3.52M3, available at the following link:

[http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType233/Production/CB6-3-52M3REV4.pdf](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType233/Production/CB6-3-52M3REV4.pdf)

References to Standards

| Highway Standard Plates CB6 Standards | Drawing CB6-3.52M3 |