

# Research Trends and Results

## Promoting Traffic Safety Measures on School routes and Residential Roads

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### 1. Present and future of efforts in each region

In the field of traffic safety for residential roads, in 2012, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the National Police Agency, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism conducted emergency joint inspections of school routes throughout Japan and have taken necessary measures and other actions. Examining measures taken in each region shows that they have mainly been measures that can be implemented relatively quickly, such as installing signs or coloring shoulders. But at locations where it is assumed that emergency measures have not ensured adequate safety, more effective measures are demanded.

### 2. Research to promote initiatives

NILIM is conducting research to support the specific selection of measures in each district by indicating the effectiveness of installing speed humps or curb extensions.

Concerning vehicle speed reduction structures in particular, standards governing their installation are not set at this time, so our survey and analysis has been focused primarily on gathering existing knowledge and at

the same time verifying the effectiveness of measures that can be installed on the side of arterial roads. Surveys of measures from the sides of arterial roads have shown that narrowing intersections (Photo 1) or smoothing sidewalks (Photo 2) where cars enter residential roads achieve a wide range of effects such as lowering the speed of cars, boosting safety consciousness, and increasing the visibility of pedestrians. (Figure)

In addition, we are conducting research to develop methods of proposing effective measures for residential roads based on social experiments of school route safety measures conducted in cooperation with Tsukuba City.

### 3. Future Developments

The Council for Social Infrastructure, Road Committee has specified eliminating through traffic and restricting speed as basic policies for traffic safety measures on residential roads, and plans to summarize and announce technical knowledge to promote future measures on actual roads.

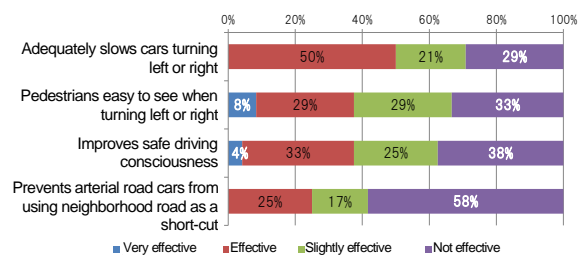


Photo 1 Intersection curb extension (extending sidewalks at an intersection to narrow the space for cars to enter the residential road)



Photo 2 Smooth sidewalk (Raising the sidewalk across the intersection to form a level difference in the traffic lanes)

Figure Questionnaire survey of drivers concerning extended curbs at intersections



[Sources]

Road Division

<http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/gbg/index.htm>