

Slowing the speed freaks

DURBAN'S Florida Road is known throughout the country as one of the city's entertainment hubs, being home to restaurants, pubs, cafes and clubs.

It is a magnet for tourists. Who can forget the wonderful buzz in the area during the 2010 Fifa World Cup, when many football fans celebrated or drowned their sorrows, depending on the fortunes of their teams.

For locals it is a party destination, drawing youngsters to the street, where they flirt and

have fun. Which is why the announcement by the Florida Road Urban Improvement Precinct that traffic calming measures are to be introduced from Monday, is to be welcomed.

Work on 10 speed humps will begin this week, with signage installation and road preparation, the UIP has announced. The project is expected to take at least two weeks to complete and will be phased in, starting with Sandile Thusi to Gordon roads and then from Gordon to Innes roads.

Fast cars, speed and carefree pedestrians do not mix. Every weekend hundreds of young people cross from pavement to pavement in Florida Road, not always paying attention to the traffic.

And weaving between them are souped-up cars, whose throaty roars and spinning wheels as they accelerate through the jay-walking pedestrians, put the lives of those on foot, and the showing off drivers, at risk.

Businesses have welcomed the introduction

of speed humps and the council has supported the project. Thought should be given to doing the same in other entertainment nodes.

We have to have safer streets and roads. Many were shocked by the video last week that showed a motorist being beaten up by illegal drag racers. Commendably the city has clamped down by impounding modified cars, and more should be done catch and arrest the drag racers. The suggestion of an official track for drag racers should move from talk to action.