

County of Marin

Board of Supervisors

POLICY FOR THE USE OF SPEED HUMPS ON MINOR, RESIDENTIAL STREETS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF MARIN COUNTY

Description	A gradual rise and fall in the pavement surface, up to a maximum of four inches in height. They are circular, parabolic or flat topped in shape, and are from 12 to 22 feet long in the direction of travel.
Purpose	To reduce vehicle speed.
Street Classification and Use	Streets that may be eligible for speed humps will be minor, residential streets. Minor, residential streets primarily serve local residents, have minimal truck and transit traffic, and they generally have volumes of 2000 vehicles per day or less. Streets that are classified as arterials or collectors or that have more than two travel lanes or 40 feet in width will not be eligible for speed humps. Speed humps will further not be used on streets that fire or emergency services use as primary routes.
Design Standards	The design of speed humps shall follow the standards in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' most recent publication of "Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps."
Public Support	More than 67% of the surrounding properties (owners or occupants, one response per property), as defined by the Department of Public Works Traffic Engineering Section, must support the installation of speed humps. A petition that includes a discussion of the pros and cons of speed humps will be distributed by Public Works and circulated to neighborhood proponents upon receipt of a Neighborhood Action Request Form. A minimum of 7 neighborhood proponents must sign the Neighborhood Action Request Form to initiate a request for a neighborhood petition.
Funding	Neighborhoods requesting speed humps will be responsible for funding at a cost of \$2,600.00 per speed hump. The neighborhood group will determine how to raise the funds.
Review	County Fire, Sheriff and California Highway Patrol will review all proposed speed hump installations prior to construction.
Removal	Removal of speed humps shall require 67% support of the surrounding properties and shall be financed by the requesting parties.

Speed humps may be warranted on a minor residential street only when **one** of the following three conditions exist:

Speed	The 85 th percentile speed (85% of drivers travel at or below this speed) exceeds 30 mph, or 50% of vehicles exceed the posted speed limit, or the average speed of the fastest 15% of drivers exceeds 35 mph.
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OR

Accidents	3 or more accidents susceptible to correction by reducing speeds have occurred within a recent 12-month period.
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OR

School Zone	On a roadway adjacent to a school site approved by the Director of Public Works based on the study results, strong community support and detailed safety evaluation.
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Note: Augmented language shown in Bold type.

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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SPEED HUMPS

Advantages:

- Speed humps have been documented to effectively lower speeds when properly installed.
- Residents typically support them and are willing to put up with the negative impacts discussed under “Disadvantages.”
- They can effectively reduce traffic volumes by encouraging drivers to use other routes. Note that this can be seen as a negative impact by those living near the alternate routes.
- Lower speeds may improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Speed humps are relatively inexpensive compared to other physical traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, road narrowing and the creation of mid-block cul-de-sacs. They cost approximately \$2,600.00 to install (including signing and striping and some engineering) and \$250.00 per year to maintain.
- They can give the public a sense of involvement and an ability to affect the speeding in their neighborhood.
- Speed humps reduce the need for police enforcement of speeds.

Disadvantages:

- Speed humps have a documented negative impact on the response time of emergency vehicles (up to a 10-second delay per hump).
- They can cause loose objects to be thrown around in an ambulance, fire truck or other vehicle if crossed at too high of a speed.
- They can be controversial. While many support them, there are residents who dislike them. A few agencies have reported having to remove them after a large amount of complaints.
- Speed humps cause an increase in noise due to slowing and accelerating vehicles.
- They cause a slight increase in gasoline consumption and emissions.
- They can cause discomfort for people with certain ailments such as back problems.
- They can divert traffic onto neighboring streets, thus transferring a traffic problem to someone else.
- Some of the public will typically find the humps and the associated signs and pavement markings aesthetically unpleasing.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION REQUEST FORM

SPEED HUMPS

We the undersigned request a neighborhood meeting at the location stated below. After reviewing the County Policy for the use of speed humps on minor, residential streets, we believe our neighborhood traffic situation warrants the installation of speed humps. The following signatures representing at least seven different residents in the neighborhood to indicate the neighborhood's commitment to work with the County for a safer traffic environment within our neighborhood.

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE (daytime)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Today's Date _____

Neighborhood: _____

Location of Concern: _____

Description of Traffic Concern: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Neighborhood Action Request Form. After completing the form, please return it to the Marin County Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Section, P.O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913

Note: Augmented language shown in Bold type.

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PETITION TO INSTALL SPEED HUMPS ON

(Street Name)

Between _____ and _____

BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS PETITION, KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING! WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU READ THE ATTACHED SHEETS DESCRIBING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SPEED HUMPS.

We, the undersigned residents of the area shown on the attached map, petition the County of Marin to install speed humps on _____ (street name) as shown on the attached drawing.

As required by County Policy, all persons signing this petition acknowledge that they will be responsible for all costs directly associated with the installation of the speed humps (~\$2,600 ea).

All persons signing this petition do hereby certify that they reside within the area impacted by the speed humps as shown on the attached map.

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

PRINT STREET ADDRESS
