

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What are Speed Humps?** Speed humps are raised asphalt structures on the pavement. They are twelve feet in length across the traveled way and between three-and-four inches in height. In general, two to three humps located about three to four hundred feet apart are needed to effectively decrease speeds.

**What are the Advantages?** Speed humps generally decrease speeds if placed strategically. The speed humps may divert traffic to main streets, away from residential areas.

**What are the Disadvantages?** Speed humps may result in a slower response time of emergency vehicles. They increase noise levels due to engine and brake noise from acceleration and deceleration of vehicles, and trucks carrying loads that bounce around. They may divert traffic to parallel residential streets (i.e. moving the problem).

**Are All Streets Suitable for Speed Humps?** No. In order for a street to qualify for speed hump installation, certain engineering criteria (e.g., traffic volumes, speeds, street function, alignment, etc.) have to be met. For instance, a street on a transit route, a street with high volume truck and agricultural traffic, or one that is a main emergency access street for the neighborhood may not be suitable for speed humps.

**Do I Need My Neighbors' Concurrence to Have Speed Humps on My Street?** Speed humps affect the entire neighborhood. At least 2/3 of the residents living on the street (and parallel streets, if applicable) should support the installation of speed humps. One hundred percent of residents immediately adjacent to the hump (within approximately 75 feet in each direction) must explicitly agree to the installation.

**Who Pays for the Speed Humps?** The County will pay for the construction, labor costs, and engineering studies.

**How Much Do They Cost?** The cost changes as equipment, materials, and labor costs change. Our current (2019) cost estimate for construction, striping, and signs is approximately \$7,000 per hump.

### **How Do I Request Speed Humps for My Street?**

1. Complete a Speed Hump Petition form (Attachment 1) and return it to the address indicated on the form. You, or whoever signs the form as the Petitioner, will act as the neighborhood facilitator. You do not need to obtain signatures of all residents on your street to submit a petition for evaluation of speed hump eligibility.
2. If all the engineering criteria are satisfied, County staff will send you an approval letter along with the Neighborhood Speed Hump Approval/Disapproval form (Attachment 2). If the criteria are not satisfied, you will receive a letter explaining why your street is unsuitable for speed humps.
3. Once your petition is approved, on the Neighborhood Speed Hump Approval/Disapproval form, collect the signatures from ALL homes on the street, whether they approve or disapprove. If directed by county staff, obtain signatures of residents located on parallel streets. Return the completed Neighborhood Speed Hump Approval/Disapproval forms to the address indicated on the form.
4. County staff will prioritize speed hump petitions relative to other petitions on a first come, first served basis. If a street qualifies for installation, staff will contact the Petitioner with the standard design and planned locations of the humps.

5. Once locations are determined by county staff, the Petitioner shall obtain the approval of all residents living within 75 feet, in both directions, of a proposed speed hump location.
6. Funds are budgeted by the County annually in April. County staff shall advise the Petitioner when construction is scheduled.

**I Rent and Do Not Own the Property I Live In. Can I Petition for a Speed Hump?** Yes, with approval from the property owner or authorized representative.

**Can a Renter Sign on Behalf of a Property Owner to Approve/Disapprove a Speed Hump Installation?**

No. The renter will sign the form as a resident of the neighborhood.

**How Long Will it Take to Get a Speed Hump Installed?** It can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, depending on various factors that include:

- a. How quickly the Petitioner obtains residents' approval;
- b. The time of the year the residents' approval happens (whether or not it can be included in that year's budget);
- c. The time of the year appropriate for construction. Construction of speed humps will occur one time per year in spring or summer.

**How Can I Request the Removal of a Speed Hump?** The following procedure shall be used to determine a street's eligibility for speed hump removal:

1. A petition for speed hump removal shall be initiated by a Petitioner in writing.
2. Speed humps shall not be considered for removal within three years of installation.
3. The Petitioner shall be informed by county staff if the above requirements are met. The Petitioner shall then obtain the approval or disapproval of all residents on the street, on forms supplied by the County. If 2/3 or more of the residents approve of the removal of the speed humps, the street shall be eligible for speed hump removal.
4. Residents who approve of the speed hump removal are required to bear the cost of removal (labor, equipment, and materials). Removal of speed humps will not take place until the cost of such removal has been received by the Department of Public Works.
5. The speed hump removal will be contracted out to bid as part of the speed hump installation project annually. County staff shall advise the Petitioner when removal is scheduled.