

Memo

To: Hazen Blodgett, Town Manager
From: Ralph S. Messera, Public Works Director
Date: March 18, 2008
Subject: Speed humps- Suburban Woods

R. Messera

Action Needed:

Board consideration of speed hump placements in Suburban Woods as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Vision Statements Supported:

Statement #10- Quality Residential Neighborhoods

Supports neighborhoods by reducing speeds and promotes a feeling of safety for pedestrians and others.

Background:

The Matthews Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed a petition for speed humps in the Suburban Woods neighborhood. Suburban Woods is off of Idlewild Rd, and in the past two years was connected to Sam Newell Road through the Wynchase subdivision. In November, 2007 the Board approved speed humps on Mullis Lane, the connecting street between the neighborhoods. These were installed in February. Mullis Gladewater and Plentywood form a system needing speed control consideration.

Attached is the data sheets on the request. The committee felt that while the counts on Gladewater and Plentywood did not meet the criteria, they felt that speeding was already a problem and that the traffic will increase as more people discover this cut-through route.

In addition, after the counts were done, we learned that the middle school was out for two of the days, so we are doing new counts and these should be available on Monday night, in time for the Board meeting.

The committee recommended one hump on Gladewater and up to two on Plentywood.

Suburban Woods Petition

Petition Info

96 parcels 74 signatures 77% signed Min. Required 75%

Speed and Traffic Counts

Standard requires a count >500 AADT and an 85% speed greater then 30 MPH

Street	Count	Speed
Gladewater Dr	263	32
Plentywood Dr	259	33
Hallmark Dr	193	28
Hallmark Dr	138	27

One of the days that the counts were taken school was out for the weather, as may have effected the counts.

- Gladewater and Plentywood meet the requirement for the speed, but do not for the daily traffic count.
- Hallmark does not meet either the traffic count of the speed requirement.

It is expected that with the completion of the connection to Mullis Lane, and the Middle School, as more people discover this cut through, that the counts will increase. In addition humps were installed last week on Mullis.

It is the recommendation of staff that even though the counts don't meet the requirements, that at least one hump be installed on Gladewater, between Mullis and Plentywood, and that one, and possibly two humps be installed on Plentywood.

Comments from the Police, Fire and EMS Departments are attached.

Ralph S. Messera
Public Works Director

Ralph Messera

From: Sgt George Powell [gpowell@matthewspolice.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 5:44 PM
To: Ralph Messera
Cc: Rob L. Hunter
Subject: Re: Speed Humps- Suburban Woods

Ralph,

I agree with your thoughts. Once people figure out that they can cut through it will become a problem. And if they are using it as a short cut they are more than likely going to speed.

George

----- Original Message -----

Ralph Messera

From: Trim Sawtelle [tsawtelle@matthewsnc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 9:48 AM
To: 'Dennis N. Green'; 'Messera, Ralph'
Subject: RE: Speed Humps- Suburban Woods

Speed bumps are a pain and slow response time and are hard on the trucks. If installed I hope that they are like the ones that were installed in the Swaim Rd area last year. We had the trucks go over and cross them at CJ's request. They were Ok and caused the least problem.

Ralph Messera

From: Rob Hunter [rhunter@matthewspolice.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:42 AM
To: 'Ralph Messera'; 'Dennis N. Green'
Cc: 'Sgt. George Powell'
Subject: RE: Speed Humps- Suburban Woods

I think the locations are good - good linear visibility - and I agree that they are or will be needed. I also agree that it would best to wait and see on Hallmark.

thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Ralph Messera [mailto:rmessera@matthewsnc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 5:58 PM
To: Dennis N. Green; 'Rob Hunter'
Cc: 'Sgt. George Powell'
Subject: RE: Speed Humps- Suburban Woods

We now have the ability to put thermo markings on our new humps rather than paint, so this should be less of a problem in the future. Thanks for commenting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis N. Green [mailto:dngreen@matthewsnc.com]

The Suburban Woods
Neighborhood Association
11105 Gladewater Drive
Matthews, NC 28105
(704) 845-1302

December 10, 2007

Matthews Public Works
c/o Ralph Messera
1600 Tank Town Road
Matthews, NC 28105

DEC 19 2007

Dear Mr. Messera,

The Suburban Woods Neighborhood Association requests the Town of Matthews to install speed humps on Gladewater Drive, Hallmark Drive, Plentywood Drive and Torino Road in our neighborhood. The recent addition of the Mullis Lane extension has brought a considerable increase in traffic to our neighborhood. The traffic is often reckless and puts our neighbors, friends and children at risk.

The addition of speed humps to our neighborhood would decrease the risk of injury or death by slowing down drivers who are inconsiderate of the posted twenty-five mile per hour speed limit.

Our streets meet the qualifying criteria of the Town of Matthews Speed Hump Placement Policy.

We anticipate your response to our petition.

Sincerely,



Carol Staten
Suburban Woods
Neighborhood Association

Enclosures