

TOWN OF MATTHEWS
SPEED HUMP PLACEMENT POLICY
Adopted March, 1998, amended August, 1999, August 2000, July 2003

It is the policy of the Town of Matthews to consider the placement of speed humps on residential streets in accordance with the following:

PAYMENT

“Standard” speed humps will be provided at the cost of the Town on residential streets that meet all the below listed standards and are approved by the Board of Commissioners, upon recommendation by the Transportation Committee. The number of speed humps approved in any fiscal year will be limited by the funds appropriated by the Board in the annual budget process, or as amended.

In the event that a neighborhood requests a decorative speed hump (brick patterned) be provided, the full cost of such addition must be paid for by the neighborhood and such payment must be made prior to the construction of the improvement.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- A street must be classified as a two-lane, local, residential street.
- A street’s width must be less than or equal to 40 feet.
- Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) should be greater than 500.
- The 85th percentile speed should be equal to or greater than five (5) miles per hour over the posted speed limit.
- A petition signed by 75% of all residents of the street will be required, including adjoining streets and cul-de sac off the street within one quarter mile of proposed hump location.
- A letter of endorsement from the neighborhood association is required, if applicable.
- Street grade is less than or equal to 8%.
- Horizontal radius of the street is less than or equal to 300 feet.
- Street’s current speed limit must be posted as 25 m.p.h. if it is a local street.
- Street should not be a primary emergency medical services route – Public Works will contact EMS, Police and Fire Departments to determine if the humps will interfere with a majority of their emergency response calls.

Additional Considerations

In addition to the previously listed technical criteria, the following conditions may also be considered by the Transportation Committee and/or Board of Commissioners when considering hump location request:

- Sight line and distance
- Curvature considerations beyond the minimum established above
- Existing vegetation
- Other objects near the street surface
- Existence of sidewalks
- Past accident history in the area
- Past speeding citations in the area

PLACEMENT CRITERIA

- Should be at least 200 feet apart (average 600-800 feet apart).
- Stop sight distance is greater than or equal to 200 feet.
- Should be located at least 200 feet from an intersection.
- Should try to locate on property lines.
- Should try to place under street lighting for greater visibility.
- Should be 5-10 feet from driveways.

PETITION PROCESS AND SCHEDULING

It is the Town's intention to construct a number of speed humps at the same time in order to obtain the most economical price to the Town. As such, qualified petitions will be presented to the Transportation Committee for recommendation as they are received, but then held until there is, in the opinion of the Director, a sufficient number to proceed with presentation to the Board. Petitions will be "qualified" by the Town Tax Collector, who will verify that the required number of residents, based on the most current tax records, have signed the petition.

After the Transportation Committee makes its recommendation, the Director will present this list to the Board, along with his bids for construction. The Board may add, delete or modify the recommendations as it sees fit. Should recommended humps exceed the money appropriated in the current fiscal year, petitions may be held over until the next fiscal year.

Any neighborhood whose approved project is subject to carry over into the following year, may have their project constructed sooner by paying the Town the full and total cost of the speed hump, including any decorative aspects. In these cases the speed hump will be included in the next contract let by the Town. There will be no refunds for humps constructed in this manner.

Hump Removal - Town Initiated

The Town may remove any speed hump or other traffic control device at any time when it is in the best interest of the Town, with Board action. Such removal will be at the expense of the Town. In cases where the Town received any payment for hump construction, there shall be no refunds.

Hump Removal - Citizen Initiated

Citizens may initiate a request for the removal of a hump through a petition process meeting the same criteria for signatures as petition requesting a hump. Upon certification, it will be reviewed by the Transportation Committee and a recommendation made to the Board of Commissioners. If approved, such removal will be at the expense of the Town. In cases where the Town received any payment for the hump construction, there shall be no refunds.