



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 16, 2018 Agenda Item 5

Voting Session

First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on Fifth Avenue between Orchard Avenue and Eastern Avenue

Recommended Council Action

Vote on the ordinance at first reading.

Context with Key Issues

Residents of Fifth Avenue petitioned to have traffic calming installed on the 6400 block of Fifth Avenue (between Orchard Avenue and Eastern Avenue). The petition was found to have a sufficient number of signatures. An initial meeting was held on October 25, 2017 attended by Public Works staff to discuss options for traffic calming on 5th Avenue. Based on that discussion, Public Works staff developed a proposal that included three speed humps and two bump outs on either side of 5th Avenue at the intersection with Westmoreland Avenue. Those locations were marked on the street for public review and a second meeting was held on December 14, 2017 to discuss the proposal. The City Council held a public hearing on April 18.

The draft ordinance will authorize Public Works to install the traffic calming.

Council Priority

Livable Community

Environmental Impact of Action

Traffic calming measures can reduce the speed of traffic on a street, thereby providing a safer street for other drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians. There is some evidence that when vehicles quickly stop before and rapidly speed up after a speed hump, more exhaust fumes are generated from their vehicle, thereby adding to air pollution.

Fiscal Impact of Action

The cost per speed hump is approximately \$1,500. The cost to extend the curb is \$21 per linear foot. The estimated cost for three speed humps and two bump outs is \$8,000.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We do not believe that the installation of this traffic calming will disproportionately impact any particular group. However, since the current process to request traffic calming on a block requires collection of signatures from two-thirds of the households on the block and the block on either side, arranging for a community meeting, and coordination with City staff, it can be a barrier for some residents to initiate the process. For neighborhoods with apartment buildings, it may not be practical for residents to obtain signatures of two-thirds of the household units, potentially resulting in fewer traffic calming installations in neighborhoods with a large number of tenants, who are more likely to

be people of color.

Attachments and Links

Draft first reading ordinance

Introduced by:

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-

AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING ON FIFTH AVENUE

WHEREAS, in accordance with Takoma Park Code, Section 13.28.010, the Director of Public Works is authorized to place, erect, and maintain upon the public highways of the City such traffic calming devices as the Council may direct at locations designated by the Council or as determined by the City Manager or his or her designee; and

WHEREAS, residents of Fifth Avenue initiated a traffic calming request process that included a petition, community meetings, and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the request and reviewed the recommendations of the Public Works Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

Section 1. Installation of traffic calming on Fifth Avenue is authorized as follows:

- A. Installation of three speed bumps on Fifth Avenue; and
- B. Installation of two bump outs either side of 5th Avenue at the intersection with Westmoreland Avenue.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2018 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: