



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 3, 2018 Agenda Item 4

Voting Session

Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing Traffic Calming on Hilltop Road between Geneva Avenue and Mississippi

Recommended Council Action

Vote on the amended ordinance at second reading.

Context with Key Issues

Residents of Hilltop Road and a portion of Mississippi Avenue petitioned to have traffic calming installed on the portion of Hilltop Road between Geneva Avenue and Mississippi Avenue. A community meeting was held August 2, 2018. The City Council held a public hearing on the request on September 12, 2018 and authorized drafting of an ordinance approving traffic calming.

At first reading, the Council amended the ordinance to authorize traffic calming measures such as signs and pavement marking rather than installation of a speed hump.

Staff recommends that an additional traffic speed count be conducted 90 days after the measures are completed. If these traffic calming measures are not effective, as evidenced by traffic speed counts, then the City Manager should notify the Council and schedule installation of a speed hump.

The ordinance as amended at first reading is attached.

Council Priority

Livable Community

Environmental Considerations

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 Considerations

The cost per speed hump is approximately \$1,500. The cost to install signs is approximately \$300 each.

Racial Equity Considerations

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

Second Reading Ordinance

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

First Reading: September 26, 2018

Second Reading:

Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-38

**AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING ON HILLTOP ROAD
BETWEEN GENEVA AVENUE AND MISSISSIPPI 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 Hilltop Road and a portion of Mississippi Avenue petitioned to have traffic calming on Hilltop Road between Geneva Avenue and Mississippi Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City Council heard testimony at a public hearing on September 12, 2018 and discussed the request at a work session the same evening.

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

Section 1. The Public Works Director is authorized to add traffic calming measures such as signs and pavement markings in an effort to reduce speed on the block.

Section 2. Staff will evaluate the effectiveness of the measures by conducting traffic speed counts after 90 days. If the measures do not sufficiently slow traffic, the City Manager will notify the Council of the results and schedule installation of a speed hump.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

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

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: