



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 3, 2020 Agenda Item 1 and 2

Voting Session

Second Reading Ordinance Approving the Installation of Traffic Calming on the 7300 Block of Wildwood Drive

Second Reading Ordinance Approving the Installation of Traffic Calming on the 7600 Block of Wildwood Drive

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the ordinances at second reading. First reading was held on May 20, 2020.

Context with Key Issues

Residents of the 7300 block of Wildwood Drive petitioned to add a second speed hump on their block. Petition signatures were verified, a neighborhood meeting was held on February 25, 2020.

Residents of the 7600 block of Wildwood Drive petitioned to have a speed hump on the block. Petition signatures were verified, a neighborhood meeting was held on November 12, 2019.

The City Council held public hearings on the requests on May 13, 2020 followed by a work session discussion, and agreed to move forward with an ordinance.

There are several other streets in the New Hampshire Gardens Neighborhood where residents wish to petition for traffic calming due to the increase in cut through traffic resulting from construction of the Purple Line. Given the inability of residents to go door to door at this time, staff suggests that residents be permitted to submit individual emails or a verifiable online petition in lieu of signing a petition circulated in person.

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 for both projects is approximately \$300.

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 Ordinances