



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 3, 2021 Agenda Item 6

### **Work Session**

Traffic Calming Requests for the 8000 Block of Wildwood Drive and Darwin Avenue

### **Recommended Council Action**

Discuss options for traffic calming on the blocks in question.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The current process for residents to request installation of traffic calming is set forth in the City Code and an administrative regulation (links below). Once the petition is certified as meeting the requirements, and a public meeting has been held, the City Council accepts comments at a public hearing. After the public hearing and consultation with the Public Works Director, the City Council may direct the installation of traffic calming by adoption of a two-reading ordinance.

#### **8000 Block of Wildwood Drive**

Residents of the 8000 block of Wildwood Drive petitioned for a speed hump and bump outs to slow traffic. The petitioners obtained the necessary signatures and a public hearing was held on February 24, 2021.

#### ***Public Works Director Recommendation:***

There is sufficient space on the block for the installation of a mid-block speed hump. The Department will mark the proposed location and request feedback from the applicants. The installation of one or two bump outs may also be feasible, depending on current parking needs.

#### **Darwin Avenue**

Residents of Darwin Avenue petitioned to have two speed humps placed on Darwin Avenue to slow traffic on the street. The petitioners obtained the necessary signatures for the request to move forward and a public hearing was held on February 24, 2021.

#### ***Public Works Director Recommendation:***

Based on the length of the street (340 feet) and the recommended placement of speed humps relative to intersections and distances apart, the Department recommends the installation of a single speed hump mid-block on Darwin.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government

### **Environmental Considerations**

Traffic calming measures can reduce the speed of traffic on a street, thereby providing a safer street for 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 the vehicle, thereby adding to air pollution.

**Fiscal Considerations**

If approved, the cost for installation of a speed hump is approximately \$3,500 per hump. The installation of two bump-outs is expected to cost \$8,000 to \$12,000.

**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.

**Attachments and Links**

- [Administrative Regulation – Traffic Calming Devices – Petition Process and Installations](#)
- [Takoma Park Code, Chapter 13.28, Traffic Calming Devices](#)