



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 17, 2021 Agenda Items 1 and 2

Voting Session

Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing Traffic Calming for the 8000 Block of Wildwood Drive
Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing Traffic Calming for Darwin Avenue

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the ordinances.

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.

Public hearings and Council discussion of requests for traffic calming on the 8000 block of Wildwood Drive and on Darwin Avenue have taken place. The Council voted on ordinances authorizing the traffic calming at first reading on March 10. Second reading is scheduled for March 17.

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

- Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Installation of Traffic Calming on the 8000 Block of Wildwood Drive
- Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Installation of Traffic Calming on Darwin Avenue
- [Administrative Regulation – Traffic Calming Devices – Petition Process and Installations](#)
- [Takoma Park Code, Chapter 13.28, Traffic Calming Devices](#)

Introduced by: Councilmember Searcy

First Reading: March 10, 2021
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-10

**AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
ON THE 8000 BLOCK OF WILDWOOD DRIVE**

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 the 8000 block of Wildwood Drive initiated a traffic calming request for installation of a speed hump and bump outs on the block in a process that included a petition, community meeting, and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the request.

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

Section 1. Installation of a speed hump, bump outs, and appropriate signage on the 8000 block of Wildwood Drive is authorized.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Introduced by: Councilmember Kovar

First Reading: March 10, 2021
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11

**AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
ON DARWIN 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 Darwin Avenue initiated a traffic calming request for installation of traffic calming on the block in a process that included a petition, community meeting, and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the request.

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

Section 1. Installation of a speed hump and appropriate signage on the 8000 block of Darwin Avenue is authorized.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: