



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 21, 2022

Agenda Item 1 & 5

Public Hearing and Work Session

Traffic Calming Request for Kentland Avenue

Recommended Council Action

Hear public comments. A work session is scheduled for the same evening to discuss the request.

Context with Key Issues

The City received a petition from residents in the area of Hopewell, Kentland, and 1000 and 1100 Larch Avenues to address concerns with speeding traffic and pedestrian safety in September, 2019. The project development was delayed due to the pandemic and the freeze on funding for these types of projects in FY20 and FY21. The Department held an initial meeting with the community in October, 2019 and recommended the development of a design for new sidewalks and traffic calming. The neighborhood voted to move forward with design development and the City hired an engineering firm to develop plans for both issues. Community meetings have been held to review the proposed design in July, 2021, February, 2022 and June, 2022. The community vote on the sidewalk construction was completed August 26, 2022 with the results to move forward. The traffic calming recommendation includes the addition of a speed hump on Kentland Avenue between New Hampshire Avenue and Hopewell Avenue. Traffic calming requests must be approved by the City Council. As a result, a Public Hearing, Work Session and Two Reading Ordinance have been scheduled on the speed hump request.

The current process for residents to request installation of traffic calming is set forth in the City Code and an administrative regulation (links below) and includes a petition signed by 2/3 of the affected street and a neighborhood organized public meeting. However, in this case, the Department has initiated the speed hump request based on the community input and is recommending the consideration by Council. 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.

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

The cost for installation of a speed hump is \$4,047.

Racial Equity Considerations

We do not believe that the installation of this traffic calming will disproportionately impact any particular group. However, because the current process for requesting traffic calming and sidewalks is petition driven, it can result in inequity for residents in multifamily buildings.

Attachments and Links

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

Introduced by:

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-

**APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
ON THE 1000 BLOCK OF KENTLAND 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 the neighborhood of Kentland, Hopewell and the 1000 and 1100 Larch Avenues initiated a traffic calming request for installation of traffic calming on Kentland Avenue 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 one new speed humps and appropriate signage mid-block on Kentland Avenue, between New Hampshire Avenue and Hopewell Avenue is authorized.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2022 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: