



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 22, 2023 Agenda Items 1 and 5

Public Hearing and Work Session

Traffic Calming Request for Second Avenue

Recommended Council Action

Hear public comments. A work session is scheduled for later in the meeting to discuss the requests.

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.

Residents of the 6500 block of Second Avenue have petitioned for the installation of a speed hump between 6521 and 6522 Second Avenue. The petitioners obtained the necessary signatures and held a remote community meeting as required for the request to move forward. The Public Works Department has evaluated the request and has concurred with the placement. The request specified the installation of a 5-mph speed hump, also known as the City standard, which is more abrupt than the County standard which is designed for 10-mph. The department has recommended that the City no longer install the prior City Standard profile and recommends the County Standard design as it meets engineering guidelines and is more commonly used.

Council Priority

A livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive and 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 a speed hump is approximately \$3,500 each.

Racial Equity Considerations

We do not believe that the installation of this traffic calming request will disproportionately impact any particular group. However, since the current process to request traffic calming on a block requires the 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](#)