



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 1, 2023 Agenda Item 2

Voting Session

First Reading Ordinance Approving Traffic Calming on Second Avenue

Recommended Council Action

Approve the ordinance.

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.

A public hearing and work session were held on February 22.

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

First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on Second Avenue

Introduced by:

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-

**APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
ON THE 6500 BLOCK OF SECOND 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 6500 Block of Second Avenue initiated a traffic calming request for the 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 bump outs as traffic calming on Second Avenue is authorized as follows: one between 6521 and 6522 Second Avenue. The speed hump profile will be the County Standard.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2023 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: