


Department of Engineering
Dan Gaillet, P.E., County Engineer

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MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2018

To: Sheila Jones, Supervisor, District I
Trey Baxter, Supervisor, District II
Gerald Steen, Supervisor, District III
David Bishop, Supervisor, District IV
Paul Griffin, Supervisor, District V

From: Dan Gaillet, P.E. 
County Engineer

Re: Updated Policy on Traffic Calming

In an effort to ensure that those neighborhoods requesting traffic calming measures have the best opportunity for success in implementing the program, it is the recommendation of the Engineering Department that the updated policy on Traffic Calming be accepted by the Board of Supervisors.

SHEILA JONES
District One

TREY BAXTER
District Two

GERALD STEEN
District Three

DAVID BISHOP
District Four

PAUL GRIFFIN
District Five

Madison County, Mississippi Board of Supervisors

Policy on Traffic Calming

Introduction:

Traffic Calming has proven to be an effective device in reducing speeds on certain types of roads and streets. Counties nationwide have used traffic calming devices and experience has demonstrated that the devices reduce travel speeds and do not affect the safe operation of motor vehicles. In order to minimize driver frustration and encourage safe driving practices, it is imperative that calming devices be installed in accordance with the transportation engineering criteria stated in this policy. Calming devices will be considered as part of the County's traffic calming activities on minor, residential streets or roads in the unincorporated areas of Madison County.

Eligibility for Traffic Calming Devices:

- Streets or Roads must be classified as "public" on the County's Official Road Registry, and will be minor, residential in nature primarily serving local residents, have minimal truck and transit traffic, and have volume of 2000 vehicles per day or less; and
- The road must be paved and have a speed limit of 35 mph or less
- Streets or Roads that are classified as arterials or collectors or that have more than two travel lanes or 40 feet in width **will not** be eligible for traffic calming.
- Traffic calming devices will further **not be used** on streets or roads that fire or emergency service vehicles use as primary routes; and
- Traffic calming devices **shall not** be installed on roadways where the County Engineer determines they cannot be safely installed due to severe horizontal or vertical curves, inadequate sight distance to the devices, or have excessive longitudinal grades.

Approval Process:

Step 1:

1. In order for traffic calming devices to be considered, 51% of the property owners and residents of non-owner occupied properties along the roadway, or who normally use the roadway for ingress and egress to their property, must submit a petition to request a study to evaluate the feasibility of traffic calming device(s) to the Madison County Board of Supervisors. The petition form may be received from the Madison County Chancery Clerk's office or County Administrator's office.
2. A letter of support from the Homeowners Association, if applicable, must accompany the petition.

Step 2:

1. A traffic study will be performed by the County Engineer to evaluate the request to determine whether the roadway meets guidelines for a residential area.
 2. If devices are warranted, the County Engineer will meet with representatives of those requesting the traffic calming devices to discuss options.
 3. If the traffic calming devices are required and agreed upon, the County Engineer will mark the location of the devices for a review by the homeowners.
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Step 3:

1. A final petition of 75% of the property owners and residents of non-owner occupied properties along the roadway, or who normally use the roadway for ingress and egress to their property, must submit a petition to the Madison County Board of Supervisors. The petition form may be received from the Madison County Chancery Clerk's office or County Administrator's office; and
2. The Madison County Board of Supervisors shall make the final determination whether the requested speed hump will be installed based upon the following:
 - a) Recommendation of the County Engineer for placement and location in accordance with safe engineering principles; and
 - b) A petition for the request signed by no less than 75% of the effected property owners as described in this section along with support from Homeowners Association
3. The Madison County Board of Supervisors, in its discretion, may elect to install speed humps or not install speed humps for good cause.

Removal of Speed Humps:

The Madison County Board of Supervisors may consider removing speed humps after they have been in place a minimum of two years and 75% of the effected property owners and Homeowners Association, as described above, sign a petition to have them removed, or some safety or engineering issue adversely impacts traffic on the roadway.

Approved the _____ day of _____, _____.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SPEED HUMPS

Although there are several devices in the “traffic calming toolbox”, speed humps are the devices most often requested.

Advantages:

- Speed humps have been documented to effectively lower speeds when properly installed.
- Residents typically support them and are willing to put up with the negative impacts discussed under “Disadvantages”.
- They can effectively reduce traffic volumes by encouraging drivers to use other routes. Note that this can be seen as a negative impact by those living near the alternate routes.
- Lower speeds may improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Speed humps are relatively inexpensive compared to other physical traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, road narrowing and the creation of mid-block cul-de-sacs.
- They can give the public a sense of involvement and an ability to affect the speeding in their neighborhood.
- Speed humps reduce the need for police enforcement of speed.

Disadvantages:

- Speed humps have a documented negative impact on the response time of emergency vehicles.
- They can cause loose objects to be thrown around in an ambulance, fire truck or other vehicle if crossed at too high of a speed.
- They can be controversial; while many support them, there are residents who dislike them.
- Speed humps cause an increase in noise due to slowing and accelerating vehicles.
- They cause a slight increase in gasoline consumption and emissions.
- They can cause discomfort for people with certain ailments such as back problems.
- They can divert traffic onto neighboring streets, thus transferring a traffic problem to someone else.
- Some of the public will typically find the humps and the associated signs and pavement markings aesthetically displeasing.

The County Engineer may discuss or recommend other devices.

PETITION TO INSTALL SPEED HUMP(S) ON

(Roadway Name)

Between _____ and _____

Before you sign this petition, know what you are signing!

We recommend that you read the attached sheets describing the advantages and disadvantages of speed humps.

We, the undersigned residents of the area shown on the attached map, petition the County of Madison to install speed hump(s) on the referenced roadway. As required by County Policy, all persons signing this petition acknowledge and hereby certify that they reside within the area to be impacted by the speed humps as shown on the attached map.

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

(Please Print)

SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	STREET ADDRESS

*Copy this page for additional signature space