



# *City of Hermosa Beach*

## **Speed Humps/Cushions Installation Policy, Rules, and Procedures**

February 2016

# **INSTALLATION POLICY**

## **BACKGROUND**

Speed humps/cushions (undulations) are among an array of available and accepted traffic calming devices suitable for installation on residential streets in the City. The installation of speed humps/cushions has been shown in some circumstances to slow traffic, but is not a guarantee that the street is a safe place for children to play. Streets exist primarily for the passage of motor vehicles; hence residents, both adults and children, should exercise due care when in the roadway.

Installation of speed humps/cushions on streets other than local residential streets could have potentially severe traffic safety consequences, almost certainly affect emergency services and other service delivery activities, and likely create the diversion of large amounts of through traffic onto local residential streets, which were not intended for that purpose. Therefore, speed humps/cushions will not normally be considered for streets that are classified as collector streets or higher in the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan, or which are determined to provide a transportation service to the community beyond that of simply providing access to the immediate abutting residences.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the circumstances and criteria under which speed humps/cushions will be considered for installation on a residential street.

## **MINIMUM CRITERIA**

The following minimum criteria shall govern installation of speed humps/cushions in the City:

- Speed humps/cushions will be considered only after other less intrusive traffic calming measures have been rejected as infeasible or ineffective.
- Speed humps/cushions will be available only on residential streets.
- Speed humps/cushions will be available only on streets that have a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less as determined in accordance with State Law, and no more than one traffic lane in each direction.
- Speed humps/cushions will not be installed on any street designated as a truck route or a transit route.
- Speed humps/cushions will not be installed on a portion of any street with a grade in excess of eight percent (8%). When installed on streets with significant downgrades, special care should be taken to ensure that vehicles will not approach the speed humps/cushions at excessive speed. Speed humps/cushions should not be placed at locations unless the minimum safe stopping sight distance is provided, as defined by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

- Speed humps/cushions will not be installed on any street as to which there are, in the judgment of the Public Works Department, inadequate vertical and horizontal alignment and sight distances to allow for safe installation.
- Speed humps/cushions will not be installed on any street that is a primary access route for emergency vehicles and would cause, in the judgment of the City's emergency response providers, unacceptable delay in response time to emergencies.

As set forth in the Speed Humps/Cushions Procedures, speed humps/cushions will only be installed upon submittal of a petition signed by at least 67% of the total number of residences on the street (one signature per dwelling unit) and signed by 100% of the owners of residences immediately adjacent to the proposed speed humps/cushions (one signature per dwelling unit).

In the event that, the residential street proposed for speed hump/cushion installation is designated a safe route to school, the Public Works Commission may recommend and the City Council may waive the requirement that 100% of the owners of residences adjacent to the proposed speed hump/cushion sign the petition.

# **PROCEDURES**

## **APPLICATION**

The City Council's adopted Speed Humps/Cushions Installation Policy, Rules, and Procedures for the installation of speed humps/cushions will be made available to all interested parties.

A representative of a local residential street, who believes the residents on his or her street will support the installation of speed humps/cushions, may submit a request in writing to the Public Works Department identifying the specific portion of the street on which speed humps/cushions are proposed and the number and location of speed humps/cushions requested. The Public Works Department will consult with the Police and Fire Departments in making a determination as to whether the street in question is eligible for further consideration for the installation of speed humps/cushions based on the criteria contained in the above speed hump/cushion policy.

## **DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

Upon determination by the Public Works Department that a street is not eligible for speed humps/cushions, the representative(s) of the street will be notified in writing of the reason why the street is not eligible. The representative(s) of the street will have fifteen (15) days to appeal the decision to the Public Works Commission. Appeals must be timely delivered in writing to the City Clerk and set forth the basis for the appeal. The Public Works Commission will consider the appellants' appeal in light of the speed hump/cushion policy, and either affirm, reverse or modify the Department's decision. A further appeal may be taken from the Commission to the City Council, in accordance with the same time and procedural requirements as set forth above. The decision of the City Council shall be final.

Upon determination that a street is eligible for further consideration, the representative of the street will be advised to submit a petition (forms provided by the City) to demonstrate that at least 67% of the total number of residences (one signature per dwelling unit) on the street are in favor of the speed humps/cushions and 100% of the owners of the residences immediately adjacent to the proposed speed humps/cushions (one signature per owner of dwelling unit) are in favor of the speed humps/cushions. (See Attachment 2 – Proposed Speed Hump/Cushion Installation)

## **SUBMISSION OF PETITION**

The petition shall disclose the portion of the street affected by the request and the number and precise location of requested speed humps/cushions. (See Attachment 1 – Petition Supporting the Installation of Speed Humps/Cushions)

## **VERIFICATION AND PROCESSING OF PETITION**

Upon receipt of a complete petition containing the requisite number of signatures, the proposal will

be scheduled for a hearing before the Public Works Commission, which will decide whether or not to recommend installation of speed humps/cushions. The Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council. The decision of the City Council shall be final.

## **RULES**

### **CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

The installation of speed humps/cushions and associated traffic control devices including signage shall conform to design standards approved by the City Engineer.

Speed humps/cushions should be installed on logical segments of local residential streets, separated from each other by approximately 200-400 feet. Logical segments are considered to be segments between arterial streets or between natural discontinuities, such as jogs in the street. Speedhumps/cushions will not normally be installed in isolated blocks along a continuous street, or on relatively short (less than 800 feet) cul-de-sac-streets.

### **FUNDING AND PRIORITY RANKING**

Speed hump/cushion requests will be funded in the order received and approved, unless the City Council determines that conditions on a particular street, as demonstrated by speed or accident statistics, require greater priority. There is no guarantee that public funding will be available. Approved projects may be privately funded.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDED INSTALLATION**

Petitioners of approved but un-funded locations may choose to retain a contractor and privately finance the speed hump/cushion installation, pursuant to City requirements and specifications. Once a location has been approved, and only after the petitioners have committed in writing to privately fund the installation, the City will prepare a drawing indicating the number and locations of humps/cushions and warning signs. Construction may begin immediately after the City's written approval has been received.

### **REMOVAL OF SPEED HUMPS/CUSHIONS**

Speed humps/cushions installed upon resident petition pursuant to this policy may be removed either by the City upon a determination that the removal is required for public safety reasons, or by petition of 67% or more of the total number of residences within the same geographic area as petitioned for the humps/cushions, requesting the removal. If removal is by petition, the residents shall pay the cost of removal, which sum shall be deposited with the City prior to the removal.



**PROPOSED SPEED HUMP/CUSHION INSTALLATION**

I/We understand that City Council may approve the installation of speed humps/cushions on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a traffic calming measure.

Further, if approved by City Council, I/We understand that a speed hump/cushion will be installed adjacent to my/our driveway causing me/us to have to drive over the hump/cushion when entering and/or leaving the driveway.

I/We do, Do Not (circle one) approve of this installation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:**

City of Hermosa Beach  
Department of Public Works  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

ATTN: Director of Public Works/City Engineer

**ATTACHMENT 2**