

TOWN OF STRATFORD - COUNCIL POLICY			
Name:	Speed Hump Installation Policy	Policy Number:	
Committee:	Safety Services	Approval Date:	

1. INTRODUCTION

Speed humps are an accepted traffic calming device and are suitable for installation on residential streets in the Town of Stratford. The installation of speed humps has been shown in some circumstances to slow traffic, but it is not a guarantee that the street is a safe place for children to play. Streets exist primarily for the passage of motor vehicles; therefore, residents - both adults and children, should exercise due care when in the roadway. Installation of speed humps on streets other than local residential streets could have potentially severe traffic safety consequences and would almost certainly affect the emergency service vehicles and other service delivery activities, and possibly create the diversion of large amounts of through traffic onto adjacent local residential streets, which was not intended for that purpose. Therefore; speed humps will not be considered for streets that are classified as collector streets, or higher in the Transportation System Plan (TSP), 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 will be considered for installation on a residential street.

2. MINIMUM CRITERIA

The following minimum criteria shall govern installation of speed humps in the Town:

- Speed hump requests will only be accepted via the **Speed Hump Request form - APPENDIX "A"** and filled out and submitted by the person or persons making the request.
- Speed humps will be considered only after other less intrusive traffic calming measures have been rejected as not feasible or ineffective; e.g.; mobile radar signs, additional speed signs, etc.
- Speed humps will be available only on residential streets carrying fewer than 2,500 vehicles per day.
- Speed humps will not be installed on any street as to which there is, in the judgment of the Town, inadequate vertical and horizontal alignment and sight distances to allow for safe installation.
- Speed humps will not be installed on any street that is a primary access route for emergency vehicles and would cause, in the judgment of the Town, unacceptable delay in response time to emergencies.
- Speed humps will not be installed on any street with a posted speed limit of 50 km/hr. or above, or streets considered to be collector streets or main arteries.

NOTE: Streets considered to be collector streets or main arteries, are not eligible for speed humps. These streets are Bunbury Road, Mason Road between Bunbury and TCH, Hopeton Road, Stratford Road, Keppoch Road, Kinlock Road, Georgetown Road, Mount Herbert Road, and the Trans Canada Highway.

3. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The installation of speed humps and associated traffic control devices shall conform to provincial design standards.

Speed humps will be installed on logical segments of local residential streets separated from each other by approximately 300 feet. Logical segments are considered to be segments between arterial streets or between natural discontinuities, such as jogs in the street. Speed humps will not be installed in isolated blocks along a continuous street, or on relatively short (less than 800 feet) cul-de-sac-streets.

NOTE: Speeding issues when witnessed, should be reported directly to the RCMP by calling 902-367-9300.

4. REQUESTING A SPEED HUMP

Upon **receiving a request** for a speed hump from a resident, the resident will be advised to obtain a package containing our speed hump policy and our **Request for Installation of Speed Hump Form**, which can be downloaded from the Town of Stratford's Website, emailed to the caller, or picked up at Stratford Town Hall. The resident making the request will be instructed to obtain the **Form**, fill it out completely, sign it and deliver it by mail, in person, or in digital pdf format. Town Staff will review the request and determine if the street in question is eligible for further consideration for the installation of speed humps - based on the minimum criteria contained in this speed hump policy. Submission of a request does not necessarily mean a speed hump will be installed. **IF** the request is approved, it could be several weeks to a month before a speed hump is installed.

5. PRIORITY RANKING

Speed hump requests will be prioritized in the order received, unless Town Staff determine that conditions on a particular street, as demonstrated by speed or accident statistics, requires greater priority. The Town reserves the right to install speed humps without a formal request, as circumstances require.

6. REMOVAL OF SPEED HUMPS

Speed humps installed upon resident request pursuant to this policy may be removed either by the Town upon a determination that the removal is required for public safety reasons. They can also be removed at the end of season, or by petition of a substantial majority - 67% or more residents within the same neighborhood as the humps, and have requested removal. For this policy, the following definitions shall apply.

Immediately Adjacent - Any part of a property being located within **50 feet** of the location of the requested speed hump.

Neighborhood - All dwelling units which take access from the street with the proposed speed hump, extending in each direction from the speed hump to the first cross street.

APPENDIX A

REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMP

The resident of street # _____ street name: _____ requests the installation of a speed hump by The Town of Stratford

The reason for this request is as follows: _____

Please indicate the civic number of the nearest home to where you are requesting the speed hump be installed. _____

Do you feel your neighborhood, as described in the definition above, will be supportive of a speed hump on your street? **YES NO** circle one.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING,

I/We understand that Speed humps may be installed near or immediately adjacent to our home as a traffic calming measure.

I/We understand that installing speed humps may increase traffic noise and slow emergency response to our home. We agree that, in the future the speed humps may be removed by the Town without prior notice, and that the speed hump will remain in place for no less than 1 month unless unforeseen circumstances dictate earlier removal e.g., street paving or damaged components.

I/We understand that a speed hump could be installed immediately adjacent to my/our driveway causing me/us to have to drive over the hump when entering and/or leaving the driveway.

Further, I/We understand that our street may be considered for permanent speed humps should the installation of temporary speed humps prove effective.

SIGNATURE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Once filled out this request form can be scanned or photographed and sent to jdriscoll@townofstratford.ca, hand delivered to 234 Shakespeare Drive reception desk, or mailed to 234 Shakespeare Drive, C1B 2V8, Attn: Joe Driscoll.

TRAFFIC CALMING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Town of Stratford frequently receives feedback from Town residents regarding speeding in local neighborhoods, potentially endangering the safety of residents. Speeding is often of particular concern to those with young families. The infrastructure department, and the Safety Services Committee supports this feedback from residents, and is committed to making objective, evidence-based decisions to ensure traffic calming measures are properly deployed in the various residential neighborhoods. One method by which we can do this is through the installation of speed humps.

To ensure objective and consistent application of speed humps as a means of traffic calming, the infrastructure department follows a regimented request and approval process, which incorporates gathering community support for the speed hump, as well as a technical review by the manager or their designate. In some cases, with use of engineering judgement, installation of speed humps may be deemed necessary or unnecessary despite the outcome of a request review, or without a request being submitted.

Based on staff evaluations of speed hump policies and practices from numerous other jurisdictions, the Town of Stratford has adopted the use of speed humps as a traffic calming measure as a means to assist in reducing the speed of traffic.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

It has been well documented through research that the installation of speed humps affords many beneficial results, though not without negative effects. Residents must acknowledge that having a speed hump installed in their neighborhood may decrease the speed of traffic, thus increasing safety for pedestrians and other motorists; but will also potentially expose them to additional risk associated with having the speed hump.

Advantages

It has been proven that speed humps are effective in reducing the speed of motorists as well as reducing the severity of vehicle-pedestrian collisions, particularly those involving small children. This benefit is significant in helping create safe, pedestrian friendly communities. Understandably, residents desire this benefit of speed humps, especially when there are young families in the neighborhood. It is often the balance between the benefits realized from having reduced traffic speeds and the disadvantages of speed humps. This increased level of safety is also conducive to active transportation, which is a common agenda for Municipal Governments.

Another benefit of speed humps that has been observed is reduced traffic volume. Although this may appear advantageous to the residents of the street, it often leads to increased volumes on parallel streets not equipped with speed humps, which may cause concern for residents of those streets. The Town is unable to install speed humps on every residential street, and thus takes the installation and subsequent analysis of effectiveness for its speed humps very seriously.

Disadvantages

While there are well defined and studied advantages to the use of speed humps, similarly there are disadvantages.

- Speed humps may increase emergency vehicle response time by up to ten seconds for every speed hump encountered.
- There is a risk of diverting traffic to other streets that do not have speed humps.
- There is increased noise caused by braking, acceleration, and the well known “thunk” when hit by vehicles at higher speeds.
- Speed humps can be inconvenient for cyclists and other non-motorized users of public streets
- Increased fuel consumption due to stop-and-go tendency.

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APPENDIX B

SPEED HUMP ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- | Yes | No | |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | Is the street classified as a residential street with a speed limit less than 50 km/hr? |
| _____ | _____ | Has the Mobile Radar Trailer been deployed, and has the data been analyzed? |
| _____ | _____ | Are there speed signs posted on the street, and are they located appropriately? |
| _____ | _____ | Does the street carry fewer than 2500 vehicles per day? |
| _____ | _____ | Is there anyone on the street who opposes the installation of speed humps? |
| _____ | _____ | Have speed humps been installed in this area in the past, and were they effective? |
| _____ | _____ | Are more than 15% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit? |

THIS FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN STAFF

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