



County of Santa Cruz 0345

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: JANUARY 25, 2000

January 14, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: ROAD BUMP POLICY REVISIONS

Members of the Board:

On December 16, 1999, your Board directed the Public Works Department to return in January 2000 with a recommendation to review the Road Bump Policy for purposes of improving the planning process for the installation of road bumps. As a result of the input that was provided by residents of Fairway Drive and staff's involvement with the current program, our department has evaluated the Road Bump Policy that has been in effect since April 27, 1993, and we can offer the following recommendations for your Board's consideration.

The first recommendation is to require residents that have requested road bumps to conduct a neighborhood meeting to determine if there is sufficient interest in installing the road bumps prior to the submittal of a road bump application. The process to prepare a road bump application has become increasingly difficult to manage because of the number of requests that are submitted annually and the amount of time it takes to prepare an application. The Public Works Department also finds that these applications are often later abandoned by residents because there is a lack of interest in pursuing the road bumps once everyone understands what is involved and what it will cost them. If this change is approved, our department would send, at the request of the residents, a staff representative to the neighborhood meeting to assist in the initial road bump evaluation.

The second recommendation is to give a higher voting weight on the road bump petition to residents that live directly along the county roadway that has been determined to have a speeding problem and lies within the area where the road bumps are to be installed. This area would be designated as the primary affected area and the residents would receive a single vote per residence in meeting the required majority vote to install road bumps. Residents that reside off of the subject

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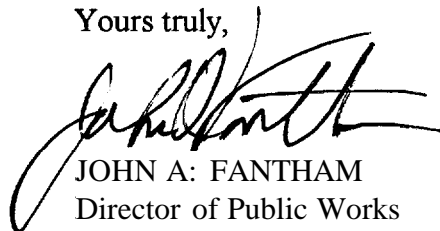
roadway, but would still be affected by the installation of the road bumps and have a principal access onto the roadway through the use of a side street or alley, would receive ½ value of a vote per residence. These residents would be designated as residing in a secondary affected area. In establishing this weighted system, residents that are most impacted by speeding motorists and those that would have to live with the road bumps in front of their residence would have the greatest representation on whether road bumps should be installed. It is important to note, however, that the mandatory road bump fee is paid by the residents through a voluntary contribution only.

The third recommendation would require that a "Notice of Proposed Road Bump Installation" be mailed to all residents in both the primary and secondary affected zones of the proposed road bump installation prior to a public hearing. This would insure that the residents that reside in both the primary and secondary affected areas would receive notification of the impending Board meeting regarding the proposed installation of road bumps on the subject roadway.

The final recommendation would require that the road bumps remain in place for a period of at least one year before any action could be taken by the residents to remove the road bumps. Because of the investment that is incurred by many of the residents and the County on the installation of road bumps, our department believes that there should be a moratorium placed on the removal of the road bumps for the one year period before the department would accept a petition of removal by the residents. This recommendation, however, would not affect your Board's discretion to remove the road bumps sooner subject to the best interests of the County.

It is therefore recommended that your Board approve the attached revised Road Bump Policy with the recommended changes shown as underlined.

Yours truly,




JOHN A: FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

JJP:bbs

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works Department

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POLICY FOR PLACING PHYSICAL SPEED CONTROL DEVICES (ROAD BUMPS)
ON COUNTY MAINTAINED ROADS AND WITHIN COUNTY SERVICE AREAS

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for approving the placement of road bumps on County maintained roads and within County Service Areas to reduce vehicle speeds and to reduce through traffic on residential streets and on streets adjacent to parks and elementary schools.

USE:

The use of road bumps like any other engineering device must be used with discretion. The unchecked use of this device may be in conflict with the achievement of other local objectives. The indiscriminate use of road bumps may create a problem that is worse than the problem it is intended to solve. To facilitate their use, the following guide lines shall be used.

1. The candidate street shall have either a high incident of speed related accidents, or a high incident of citizen reported speeding problems.
2. Road bumps shall not be used on residential streets which provide the sole access to a regional facility (i.e., fire station, post office, transfer station).
3. Road bumps shall only be used on streets which meet the prima-facie requirements for a residential 25 mph speed limit.
4. Road bumps may be used **if they** are adjacent to an elementary school or a park.

LIMITATIONS:

1. Road bumps shall not be allowed on arterial or collector streets.
2. Road bumps shall not be allowed on a street where the Engineer determines:
 - A. The grade to be excessive.
 - B. The grade or alignment does not provide sufficient stopping sight distance.
 - C. The route to be an important emergency vehicle access route.
3. Road bumps shall not be allowed on truck routes, or Transit District bus routes,
4. Road bumps shall not be used on roads carrying over 2,000 vehicles per day.
5. Road bumps shall not be used if they will cause considerable diversion of traffic to other residential routes.

APPLICATION:

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Prior to making an application to have road bumps installed, a neighborhood meeting shall be held to discuss road bumps and to determine if a significant amount of interest exists in favor of the installation of road bumps.

The application will be prepared by the Department of Public Works and it will be mailed to the applicant. The application will consist of a petition and a map of the primary and secondary affected road bump areas. The petition must be signed by a majority of the residents that occupy each property as their principal place of residence in the affected areas. After the applicant has obtained signatures for the petition, those residents living within the primary affected area will receive a single vote per residence. Those residents living within the secondary affected area will receive a 1/2 value of a vote per residence. The primary area is defined as the fronting properties along the section of road that has been determined to have a speeding problem and where the road bumps would therefore be installed. The secondary affected area are the properties off of the primary road served by any side street, road, or alley that intersects with the primary road and has principal access through the section of road proposed to have road bumps installed. It is the intent that the residents that live directly along the county roadway that has been determined to have a speeding problem and in the area where the road bumps are to be installed shall have a higher voting weight on the road bump petition.

A letter from the fire agency serving the area and the local school districts (when said district provides bus service on the affected street) stating their position regarding road bumps on the affected streets shall be submitted with the petition.

NOTIFICATION:

The applicant is responsible to notify all residents in both the primary and secondary affected areas of the proposed road bump installations. The Public Works Department will prepare a list of addresses of the residents in the affected areas. The applicant shall supply the Public Works Department with addressed stamped legal size envelopes for the department's use in mailing out a Notice of Proposed Road Bumps to all addresses in the affected areas.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Implementation shall commence only after adoption of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing.

DESIGN STANDARDS:

The design of road bumps for use in Santa Cruz County is based on guidelines established from studies conducted by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee. Exact location along approved routes and design of the devices shall be determined by the Public Works Department. The standards for construction of road bumps shall be as shown in the County of Santa Cruz Design Criteria approved by the Board of Supervisors.

COST:

One half of the cost of the installation shall be borne by the property owners requesting the devices on County maintained roads, while property owners requesting such devices

on County Service Area boards shall assume the full cost. A cash deposit will be required after approval by the Board of Supervisors and prior to construction.

REMOVAL:

Road bumps are subject to **future** modification or removal if deemed in the best interest of the County. Such action must be approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors following a public hearing. Payment for removal shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors based on the reason for removal. No action to remove road bumps may be initiated until at least one year has passed from the date the bumps were initially installed.

MAINTENANCE:

Road bumps on County maintained roads shall be maintained by the Public Works Department. Road bumps on County Service Area roads shall be maintained by the County Service Area.