

WARREN COUNTY SPEED HUMP POLICY

A. Overview

The objective of the Warren County Speed Hump Policy is to provide a process whereby property owners in subdivisions or neighborhood areas may request the installation of speed humps on county residential street(s). For a request to be considered, the requirements set forth in this Policy must be met. However, traffic control on the roads of Warren County, including the installation or removal of speed humps, is an issue left solely to the discretion of the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

B. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms and definitions shall apply:

(1) “Property owner” means the person(s) identified by the records of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Warren County as the owner(s) of a parcel of real estate located in the unincorporated area of Warren County.

(2) “Residential street” means only a street, road, or thoroughfare that is a paved, county-maintained, two-lane roadway providing access to developed or undeveloped residential lots. Regardless of any other sub-section herein, no private roadway or state/federal highway shall be considered a residential street.

C. Property Owner Request

Any property owner may request that the County install speed humps on the residential street where their property is located. Such a request shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Commissioners or the Commissioner of the district where the subject street is located.

D. Qualified streets

The following requirements must be observed before street humps are added to any street pursuant to this policy:

(1) The street must be a county maintained, two-lane paved local residential street that provides access to developed or undeveloped residential lots.

(2) The street must be classified as a local residential street with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less.

(3) Streets will not be segmented. The entire length of the street where the street name remains unchanged will be considered.

(4) The pavement width shall not exceed 40 feet.

(5) The street length shall be at least 700 feet or greater.

(6) Speed humps shall not be installed on any portion of a street with a grade of 8 percent or more.

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(7) Sufficient separation must be available between driveways to allow for proper placement of speed humps. Speed humps will not be placed directly in front of driveways or parking areas.

(8) Geometric characteristics of the street must allow for placement of speed humps and regulatory signs in general conformance with applicable standards of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and all other mandatory legal specifications.

E. Speed-Volume Study

Upon receipt of a request made under Section C. herein, the County shall perform a speed-volume study to determine whether the 85th percentile traffic speed on the street is 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit and whether the average daily traffic is at least 200 vehicles.

F. Required Petition

(1) After the above speed-volume study has been completed, the County will develop a proposed speed hump layout that will be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners. A notice setting forth the time, date, and place of the meeting will be posted at the bulletin board of the courthouse and mailed to the property owner that made the initial request under Section C above at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Speed hump petition form(s), as approved by the Board of Commissioners, will be made available at the meeting.

(2) Minor changes in the proposed speed hump layout may be considered based upon property owner's concerns at the public meeting and the engineering feasibility to make such modifications. Such changes may be made at the sole discretion of the County.

(3) If, after the meeting, the property owner(s) desire to continue the process and seek Commission approval for installation of speed humps, it is the responsibility of the property owner(s) to distribute and collect the petition forms and obtain the requisite signatures on the petitions. Such petitions must be in the form set forth by the County and shall clearly set forth the proposed speed hump addition and the requirement that a special assessment district will be created which will require the owners of property abutting the affected street to pay for the speed humps.

(4) If the speed volume study reveals that the 85th percentile traffic speed on the subject street(s) is 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit, the owners of at least 75% of the properties which are both adjacent to the street where the speed humps are being proposed and within 100 yards of any proposed speed hump must approve of their installation, as set forth in the speed hump layout presented at the public meeting referenced above, or as it may have been amended at such meeting, by properly signing the petition. Only petitions that meet these requirements and that are submitted to the Board of Commissioners within three (3) months of the public meeting will be presented

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to the Commission for consideration. No changes to petitions will be allowed after they are submitted to Board of Commissioners. Petitions that do not meet the requirements of this policy or that are not received within three (3) months of the meeting shall not be considered.

(5) If the speed-volume study reveals that the prevailing 85th percentile speed on the subject street(s) is not 11 mph or more over the posted speed limit or if the average daily traffic is less than 200,, the owners of at least 90% of the properties which are both adjacent to the street(s) where the speed humps are being proposed and within 100 yards of any proposed speed hump must approve of their installation, as set forth in the speed hump layout presented at the public meeting referenced above, or as it may have been amended at such meeting, by properly signing the petition. Only petitions that meet these requirements and that are submitted to Board of Commissioners within three (3) months of the public meeting will be presented to the Commission for consideration. No changes to petitions will be allowed after they are submitted to Board of Commissioners. Petitions that do not meet the requirements of this policy or that are not received within three (3) months of the meeting shall not be considered.

(6) Only signatures of the property owner(s) whose properties are adjacent to the street where the speed humps are being proposed shall be valid and considered in calculating the requisite percentages. In the case of multiple owners, each owner must sign. Rental tenants are not acceptable substitutes. Each lot, regardless of the number of owners, counts as one vote. However, owner(s) of more than one lot on the subject street(s) shall be given one vote for each lot owned. To determine whether the requisite percentage is met, the total number of lots whose owner(s) voted in favor of installation by signing the petition shall be divided by the total number of lots that are adjacent to the street(s) or within 100 yards of where speed humps are being proposed. All signatures on the petition are subject to verification by the County. In the case of a Petition that fails to meet the requirements of this Policy, property owners must wait at least two (2) years after the initial request before requesting that the County conduct another study of that same street.

G. Required Approval by Board of Commissioners

If the requisite percentage of property owners approve of the proposed speed hump installation by properly signing and submitting the petition, the Board of Commissioners shall place the subject on the agenda of its next regular meeting for consideration. Speed humps will be installed only if the Board of Commissioners, in its sole discretion, approves their installation. If approved by the Board of Commissioners, speed humps shall be installed pursuant to the speed hump layout proposed at the public meeting referenced in Section F or as it may have been amended at such meeting after considering any property owner concerns.

H. Funding of Speed Hump Projects & Establishment of Special Assessment District

(1) The Board of Commissioners may delay the installation of approved speed humps until it determines adequate funding is available to complete the project.

(2) After the Board of Commissioners approves the installation of speed humps, a special assessment district, consisting of those properties which directly abut the street with the proposed speed humps, will be created. Charges for installation, maintenance and repair of speed humps, as approved by the Board of Commissioners, shall be pro-rated and added to the property tax bills. Each platted lot abutting the street where speed humps are located, whether developed or not, will be subject to the assessed charges.

I. Removal of Speed Humps

(1) Property owners may request the removal of speed humps by submitting a petition requesting their removal to the Board of Commissioners. However, petitions to remove speed humps will only be considered by the Board if the speed humps have been installed for a minimum of one year. Furthermore, before the request can be brought before the Board of Commissioners, the owners of at least 70% of the properties which are both adjacent to the street where the speed humps are installed and within 100 yards of any installed speed hump must approve of their removal by signing the removal petition. The petition must set forth the petitioner's desire to have the speed humps removed and must set forth the street where the subject speed humps are located.

(2) Only signatures of the property owner(s) whose properties are adjacent to the street where the speed humps are located shall be valid and considered in calculating the requisite percentages. In the case of multiple owners, each owner must sign. Rental tenants are not acceptable substitutes. Each lot, regardless of the number of owners, counts as one vote. However, owner(s) of more than one lot on the subject street(s) shall be given one vote for each lot owned. To determine whether the requisite percentage is met, the total number of lots whose owner(s) voted in favor of removal by signing the petition shall be divided by the total number of lots that are adjacent to the street(s) where the removal of speed humps is being proposed. All signatures on the petition are subject to verification by the County.

(3) If the petition meets the requirements of this Policy, the Board of Commissioners shall place the subject on the agenda for its next regular meeting for consideration. Speed humps will be removed only if the Board of Commissioners, in its sole discretion, approves their removal. Nothing set forth in this policy shall prohibit the County from removing any speed humps from any street(s) upon its own initiative.

(4) After the Board of Commissioners approves the removal of speed humps, a special assessment district, consisting of those properties which directly abut the street with the speed humps designated for removal, will be created. Charges for removal of speed humps, as approved by the Board of Commissioners, shall be pro-rated and added to the

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property tax bills. Each platted lot abutting the street where the speed humps are being removed, whether developed or not, will be subject to the assessed charges.

J. Effective Date

This policy was adopted by the Warren County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on the date set forth below.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2009.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
John R. Graham, Chairman

By: _____
Richard Burley, Jr., District 1 Commissioner

By: _____
Rita Johnson, District 2 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Pamela Lester, County Clerk

[SEAL]