



City of Arts & Innovation

Transportation Board

TO: TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DATE: AUGUST 6, 2025

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WARDS: 4

SUBJECT: JOHN STREET PROPOSED SPEED HUMPS

ISSUE:

Consideration of implementation of speed humps along John Street between Victoria Avenue and Cleveland Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Transportation Board:

1. Deny the appeal requesting speed humps along John Street between Victoria Avenue and Cleveland Avenue;
2. Request spot police enforcement during excessive speeding based on data driven observations; and
3. Install stop ahead signs and associated stencils and refresh existing red 25 MPH pavement markings.

BACKGROUND:

The Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) was designed to provide general guidelines for the assessment of traffic issues on local, collector, and arterial roadways throughout the City as well as outline various traffic mitigation measures which may serve as suitable solutions to demonstrated traffic issues.

As part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), the city re-instated a formal Speed Hump Policy Guidelines and Procedure on May 7, 2024, to effectively address concerns related to speeding on residential streets. The goal of this policy is to enhance neighborhood safety by implementing traffic calming measures, such as speed humps, to reduce vehicle speeds on eligible residential streets. This policy aims to unite neighborhoods and identify appropriate measures to improve travel behavior for the benefit of affected communities. Speed humps are a potential secondary option for residential designated streets. A website outlining details of the Speed Hump Program has been developed – [Speed Hump Program | Public Works](#)

A speed hump is an elongated mound in the roadway pavement surface extending across the traveled way designed perpendicular to the traffic flow. The purpose of a speed hump is to regulate traffic speeds by providing minor vertical deflection while driving through it. Speed humps are still considered experimental roadway features; therefore, additions, alterations, or removals of all speed humps may occur at any time.

DISCUSSION:

The city received a petition from the residents on John Street requesting speed humps to be installed on their street. The petition and roadway conditions on John Street between Victoria Avenue and Cleveland Avenue (Attachment 1 – Location Map) were reviewed for consistency with the City's Speed Hump Program. The petition received indicates support by 15 of the 17 residents (88%) on John Street for speed humps, which meets the minimum requirement of 70% of the residents. There were no signatures from residents opposing the consideration of speed humps. Staff investigated speeds, volumes, and street geometrics. Comparing staff's investigation of John Street with the City's set guidelines for speed humps resulted in 7 out of 8 criteria being met – John Street does not meet minimum average daily traffic (ADT) threshold of 750 vehicles per day. Based on the requirement to meet all 8 criteria, John St does not qualify for speed humps per the City approved policy. A summary of the findings is provided on Attachment 2 and staff have provided all this information to the John Street residents. However, a letter of appeal (Attachment 10) was submitted to city staff to requesting for proposed speed humps to be reviewed by the Transportation Board.

Since the roadway does not meet the established criteria for speed hump installation and staff are not aware of mitigating circumstances that would merit overriding the established criteria, staff recommend denial of the appeal. Further, the speed hump installation estimate is \$21,480 which is a substantial cost.

John Street is a two-way (one lane in each direction) residential street located between Victoria Avenue to the north, and Cleveland Avenue to the south. It is approximately 1,340 feet in length and 30 feet wide, which meets the minimum required length of ¼ mile (1,320) and does not exceed the maximum width of 40 feet. There are 17 homes on both sides of the street meeting the minimum requirement of sixteen (16) homes for a double-loaded street. Attachment 3 illustrates the potential speed hump locations along John Street. There are three (3) speed humps shown.

There were two speed surveys and traffic counts conducted on John Street as part of staff's investigation. The radar surveys measured the 85th percentile speed in the range of 34 mph to 37 mph on John Street which does meet the 37-mph minimum required by the city program. The corresponding 24-hour two-way volume counts indicated total daily volumes in the range of 253 to 261 vehicles per day, which does not meet the minimum threshold of 750 vehicles per day. The estimated vertical grade is in the range of 2.2%-3.3% along John Street, which is below the maximum eight (8) percent vertical grade threshold. Several photos of John Street are included in Attachment 5. Despite all the previously utilized speed management alternatives, vehicular speeding continues to persist with an 85th percentile speed in the range of 34MPH - 37MPH (9MPH - 12MPH over the prima facie speed limit of 25 MPH).

The Riverside Fire Department has provided a general comment regarding proposed speed humps in consideration of potential impacts to emergency response times, if any. The RFD has requested the city to consider installing a Speed Bump (Type II) of Standard Plan 257 for new speed hump installations. The Type II Speed Bump has gaps in the middle to allow emergency vehicles to bypass speed humps on the roadway during an urgent emergency call. Golden

Avenue between Pierce Street and Cypress Avenue currently has Type II Speed Bumps installed and there have not been any concerns with its utilization.

Staff has prepared an exhibit showing potential locations for the installation of speed humps. The locations are selected based on having adequate spacing between curves and intersections and adequate sight distance to allow for proper signing on each approach. Utility covers and driveways in the street are also avoided. Staff selected locations where signs may be placed on existing poles or streetlights to minimize the impacts of the signs on the neighborhood. A total of three (3) potential locations were found for speed humps. Each speed hump installed would potentially add an additional delay of 10 (ten) seconds to emergency vehicles. However, the usage of the Type II Speed Bumps would significantly minimize if not eliminate delays for emergency vehicles.

A review of our traffic accident records for the past three years on John Street from 2020 through 2025 shows zero reported traffic collisions. There were no speed related collisions.

The City's Speed Hump Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures are included in Attachment 6. Attachment 6 also illustrates the City's Standard Plan Detail No. 251 – Speed Bump (Type II).

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has also published some Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps. One of the guidelines worth mentioning from the ITE guidelines is the spacing for speed humps (see Attachment 6). The exhibit displays a properly designed speed hump spacing in the range of 150–500-foot space on each side prior to the speed hump.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Engineering Speed Management Countermeasures offers an excellent resource for speed humps studies and resulting speed reduction effectiveness (Attachment 7). As documented, speed humps can be effective at reducing speeds in the range of 5-13 mph.

Conclusion:

John Street meets 7 of the 8 criteria of the City's adopted policy for speed humps. It does not meet the minimum average daily traffic (ADT) threshold of 750 vehicles per day. The observed ADT ranged from 253 to 261 vehicles. Based on the requirement to meet all 8 criteria, John Street does not qualify for speed humps per the City approved policy. A summary of the findings is provided via Attachment 2 and staff has provided all of this information to the residents along John Street. However, a letter of appeal (Attachment 10) was submitted to city staff requesting for proposed speed humps to be reviewed by the Transportation Board. If speeds humps are approved, then there is a potential to add three (3) speed humps as shown in Attachment 3. If speed humps are not approved, then staff recommends the installation of stop ahead signage & associated stencils, refresh existing red 25 MPH pavement markings, and spot police enforcement during excessive speeding based on data driven observations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the proposed speed humps are recommended for approval to City Council, then the fiscal impact of this action for the cost of installation of speed humps, signage and pavement markings is estimated at \$21,480. Funding is available in the Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering budget, Speed Hump Traffic Calming account number 9927230-440313, to cover this cost, pending outcomes of other speed hump requests.

Prepared by: Philip Nitollama, City Traffic Engineer
Approved by: Gilbert Hernandez, Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Approved by: Kris Martinez, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Rebecca McKee-Reimbold, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Location Map
2. Speed Hump Criteria Checklist
3. Potential Locations
4. Traffic Count Data
5. Street View Photos
6. Speed Hump Program Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines
7. FHWA Engineering Speed Management Countermeasures – Speed Humps
8. Appeal Letter
9. Presentation