

Madison County, Mississippi Board of Supervisors

Policy on Speed Control Devices/Speed Humps

Introduction:

Speed humps have proven to be an effective device in reducing speeds on certain types of roads and streets. Counties nationwide have used speed humps and experience has demonstrated that speed humps reduce travel speeds and do not affect the safe operation of motor vehicles crossing the humps. In order to minimize driver frustration and encourage safe driving practices, it is imperative that speed humps be installed in accordance with the transportation engineering criteria stated in this policy. Speed humps will be considered as part of the County's traffic calming activities on minor, residential streets or roads in the unincorporated areas of Madison County.

Eligibility for Speed Humps:

- Streets or Roads must be classified as "public" on the County's Official Road Registry, and will be minor, residential in nature primarily serving local residents, have minimal truck and transit traffic, and have volume of 2000 vehicles per day or less
- The street or road must be paved and have a speed limit of 35 mph or less
- Streets or Roads that may be classified as arterials or collectors or that have more than two travel lanes or 40 feet in width **will not** be eligible for speed humps. Speed humps will further **not be used** on streets or roads that fire or emergency service vehicles use as primary routes
- Speed humps **shall not** be installed on roadways where the Road Manager and County Engineer determines they cannot be safely installed due to severe horizontal or vertical curves, inadequate sight distance to the humps or excessive street downgrades

Approval Process:

- In order for speed humps to be considered, 75% of the property owners and residents of non-owner occupied properties along the roadway, or who normally use the roadway for ingress and egress to their property, must submit a petition to install speed humps to the Madison County Board of Supervisors. The petition form, along with a list of advantages and disadvantages of speed humps, may be received from the Madison County Chancery Clerk's office or County Administrator's office.
- A letter of support from the Homeowners Association, if applicable, must accompany the petition
- A traffic study will be performed by the Road Department and County Engineer to evaluate the request to determine whether roadway meets speed hump guidelines for a residential area.

- The Madison County Board of Supervisors shall make the final determination whether the requested speed hump will be installed based upon the following:
 1. Recommendation of the Road Manager and County Engineer for placement and location in accordance with safe engineering principles
 2. A petition for the request signed by no less than 75% of the effected property owners as described in this section along with support from Homeowners Association
- The Madison County Board of Supervisors, in its discretion, may elect to install speed humps or not install speed humps for good cause

Removal of Speed Humps:

The Madison County Board of Supervisors may consider removing speed humps after they have been in place a minimum of two years and 75% of the effected property owners and Homeowners Association, as described above, sign a petition to have them removed, or some safety or engineering issue adversely impacts traffic on the roadway.

Approved the 15th day of December, 2008.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF SPEED HUMPS

Advantages:

- Speed humps have been documented to effectively lower speeds when properly installed
- Residents typically support them and are willing to put up with the negative impacts discussed under “Disadvantages”
- They can effectively reduce traffic volumes by encouraging drivers to use other routes. Note that this can be seen as a negative impact by those living near the alternate routes
- Lower speeds may improve pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Speed humps are relatively inexpensive compared to other physical traffic calming measures such as traffic circles, road narrowing and the creation of mid-block cul-de-sacs
- They can give the public a sense of involvement and an ability to affect the speeding in their neighborhood
- Speed humps reduce the need for police enforcement of speed

Disadvantages:

- Speed humps have a documented negative impact on the response time of emergency vehicles
- They can cause loose objects to be thrown around in an ambulance, fire truck or other vehicle if crossed at too high of a speed
- They can be controversial. While many support them, there are residents who dislike them
- Speed humps cause an increase in noise due to slowing and accelerating vehicles
- They cause a slight increase in gasoline consumption and emissions
- They can cause discomfort for people with certain ailments such as back problems
- They can divert traffic onto neighboring streets, thus transferring a traffic problem to someone else
- Some of the public will typically find the humps and the associated signs and pavement markings aesthetically unpleasing

