

Public Hearing

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	February 24, 2014
Prepared By	Daryl Braithwaite Public Works Director Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
Approved By	Brian T. Kenner City Manager

Discussion Item	Traffic Calming for the 300 Block of Boyd Avenue
Background	<p>Residents of Boyd Avenue have petitioned to have a traffic calming device installed between the corner of Boyd Avenue at Jackson Avenue and 334 Boyd Avenue, to slow traffic and protect pedestrians.</p> <p>The petition has been evaluated and found to have a sufficient number of signatures to move forward with a public hearing on the request. A notice of the hearing was mailed to area residents and published in the Takoma Park Newsletter.</p> <p>Attached to this cover sheet is a map showing the location, surrounding properties, and playground. The street width on this section of Boyd Avenue is 26 feet. There is no parking allowed along the even side of the street. The distance between the intersection and the driveway on the odd side is 87 feet and on the even side is 100 feet. City Code Section 13.28.020 includes guidelines to be used when considering speed hump or traffic calming installations. These guidelines recommend that any device be located at least 75 feet from an intersection and 100 feet from a stop sign. Additionally, it is recommended that any device be visible to drivers at a distance of 100 to 200 feet. The recommended distance between traffic calming devices is 150 to 300 feet.</p> <p>Given existing conditions (proximity to intersection and distance to speed hump at 328/345 Boyd), staff does not recommend installation of a speed hump at this location. A bump out of the curb on the even side, about 80 feet from the intersection and before the driveway apron, could provide a road narrowing that would be a visual clue to slow drivers. However, it would require the elimination of at least one parking space on the odd side of the street at 349 Boyd. The size of the bump out is recommended to be approximately 3 feet wide and 15 feet long. A painted center line on either side of the bump out is recommended to cue drivers to stay in their lane.</p>
Policy	<p>Takoma Park Code, Title 13, Sections 13.28.010 - Erection and maintenance of traffic calming devices:</p> <p>A. In the regulation and supervision of traffic, the Director of Public Works is authorized to place, erect and maintain upon the public highways of the City such</p>

	<p>traffic calming devices as the Council may direct, at the locations designated by the Council or as determined by the City Manager or his or her designee.</p> <p>B. In accordance with Chapter 2.12, the City Manager or his or her designee may establish such regulations and standards as are necessary to accomplish the purposes and intent of this chapter.</p> <p>Regulation 96-1 – Guidelines and Procedures for Traffic Calming Device Installations. Guidelines for Evaluating the Public Hearing:</p> <p>The following criteria are intended to guide the Council in determining whether a request for a traffic control device installation is reasonable and justified. These should not be considered exclusive criteria.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The street has not been identified and is not used by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department as a primary fire and rescue route into a neighborhood. 2. The impact of traffic control devices on adjacent neighborhoods be assessed. 3. The petitioners have made efforts to provide broad notification to potentially affected residents.
Fiscal Impact	To be determined.
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map • Public comments received to date
Recommendation	Hear testimony at the public hearing and determine next steps.
Special Consideration	



300 Block of Boyd Avenue

From: "Kelley, Cathy"
Date: Saturday, June 15, 2013
Subject: Page 1 of 4: Petition for a traffic calming device between the corner of Jackson Avenue and 334 Boyd Avenue
Attachments: photo.JPG

Petition for a traffic calming device
between the corner of Jackson Avenue
and 334 Boyd Avenue

Hello all- Larry Bush and I have spent the last three weekends going door to door in both the 300 and 400 blocks of Boyd Avenue and have now collected 2/3rds of our neighbor's support for installation of either a speed bump or some other type of traffic calming device directly next to the Jackson Boyd neighborhood park. (See attached. More signatures to follow in another email.)

In doing so, we have discovered that there are additional concerns that our neighbors have voiced which go beyond this particular request. So I feel obligated to share these concerns with you.

Ninety percent of the residents have young children and they are concerned for their safety with the increase in cut-through traffic:

1. The 3 speed bumps that are currently in the 300 block are wearing down. They could use a facelift. People sail over them. We would like them to be as effective as the ones that are on Maple Avenue between Rt. 410 and Carroll Avenue.
2. The 400 block has no speed bumps of any sort. As we were collecting signatures we witnessed many drivers traveling too fast. This has become more of a problem since the installation of the sign that prohibits drivers from turning at the corner of Rt. 410 and Jackson Avenues during specific time periods. They now cut through at the intersection of Rt. 410 at Elm Street. Also noted by our neighbors: some of people that cut through have been seen going the wrong way at the new circle located at the corner of Elm and Lincoln. That's downright dangerous.
3. The sidewalks that will eventually be installed will help improve pedestrian safety and we are all looking forward to them.

I want to voice a major concern. If plans are to include installation of a sidewalk on the even side of the 300 block at the corner of Jackson and Boyd, I want to stress that without this speed bump or other slow down device - it will put pedestrians (likely local children and their parents walking to the school bus each morning) at high risk. This is because of the way the road is crowned and the fact that it leans downhill. Combine that with people who are driving too fast or bad weather and you can be certain that someone is going to get hit by a vehicle. I hadn't mentioned in my earlier email, but I want to relate an incident that happened one winter in the late 90s. I was getting ready for work and heard a knock at my door. It was a bystander who witnessed a lady walking up Boyd in front of my house, in the street. There was no sidewalk on either side of the street in this end of the block back then. A car slid into her and pinned her ankle between the curb and the sidewall of the tire. It happened at a very low rate of speed. But the crown of the road was a contributing factor. The car slid sideways into her. She was taken to the hospital and no bones were broken and survived relatively unscathed, thankfully.

My point is, between this incident and that fact that two cars parked were hit in our driveway, by cut through traffic, there is definitely a problem to correct.

In the paperwork that came with the petition form, I notice a section that says if there is a park or school located at the site, that the council can vote directly on an installation of a traffic calming device. If so, I appeal to you to consider the petition and vote directly at your next council meeting.

-thank you, Cathy Kelley

From: "Kelley, Cathy"
Date: Saturday, June 15, 2013
Subject: Part 4 of 4: speed bump petition. here is an example of a questionable driver
Attachments: IMG_0380.MOV; ATT00001.htm

This attached video shows a cut-through driver that doesn't stop at the stop sign...

This driver also disregards two pedestrian about to cross Boyd Avenue and is probably just barely within a safe speed as he accelerates beyond them. Where he accelerates is where we want the speed bump installed.

I chose this view, looking up Boyd Avenue toward Carroll Avenue, because it shows the Jackson Boyd neighborhood park, at the corner of the intersection on the left - which is relative to our house, on the right side of the frame, where the hit and run accident occurred on Memorial Day. What I also want to point out is the slight crown/downhill slant of the street that I believe was a factor in all three accidents I spoke of in my first email today and why I have concerns if a sidewalk gets installed on the right side of the block, especially when cars are turning left and accelerating. It's a physics problem.

I am all for the sidewalk only if there is something that will slow down these drivers. The location of the requested speed bump is within this frame, just at the far boundary of the park and just before our driveway, where the 25 mile an hour sign is located.

Please let me know what the next step is. If you can expedite a review at your next council meeting my neighbors and I would be grateful.

-Thanks, Cathy Kelley