



MEETING DATE: 2/02/04  
ITEM NO. 8

COUNCIL/AGENCY AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 27, 2004  
TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SPEED HUMPS ON JOHNSON AVENUE AS A PERMANENT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURE

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of speed humps on Johnson Avenue as a permanent traffic calming measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Johnson Avenue neighborhood formally requested traffic calming for their street three times between 1987 and 2000. This was requested prior to the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, developed to provide staff a procedure to respond to neighborhood traffic issues. After the Town's Traffic Calming Policy was approved in April 2002, staff scheduled a neighborhood meeting to develop a solution. At this meeting, participants discussed traffic issues and their preferences on measures to slow, or calm traffic. Participants indicated a strong preference for speed humps and curb bulb-outs.

In May, 2002, the Town's Traffic Engineer drafted a concept plan for three (3) speed humps and four (4) bulb-outs located between Cross Way and Johnson Hollow, with the intent for the devices' final placement to meet the adjacent property owners' approval. A neighborhood vote was then conducted during June, 2002. The outcome of this vote was 72% of the respondents were in support of the devices, 25% percent opposed and 2% abstained. The Town's Traffic Calming Policy requires 67% support vote. The neighborhood vote met this requirement. Staff reported this to Council in September, 2002. Council approved staff's recommendation to install temporary traffic calming devices on Johnson Avenue.

Installation of the devices commenced in November, 2002. Staff painted the locations for the speed humps and the curb bulb-outs. Notices were placed on the nearby residences' doors of the planned

PREPARED BY: *John E. Curtis*  
JOHN E. CURTIS  
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: QSS Assistant Town Manager dk Attorney      Clerk 31 Finance  
     Community Development Revised: 1/27/04 3:38 pm

PAGE 2

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS ON JOHNSON  
AVENUE AS A PERMANENT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURE

JANUARY 27, 2004

installation asking residents to contact staff with any concerns about any of the proposed locations. Staff received feedback from several residents opposing the location of the curb bulb-outs as it took away parking. These residents had voted "yes" for the trial traffic calming proposal, but when they saw where the bulb-out was to be located, residents who would lose needed on-street parking changed their minds. Johnson Avenue residences have limited parking, and many homes do not have driveways. As bulb-outs need to be placed in a location that will be effective, while also meeting the adjacent property owner's approval (as they take away a parking space), the Town Traffic Engineer determined it was practical to install the speed humps without the bulb-outs. Asphalt speed humps were installed, rather than rubberize humps, as a cost-savings approach in December, 2002.

#### DISCUSSION:

The trial traffic calming period for Johnson Avenue was from January, 2003 through June, 2003. Original speed data indicated the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds for Johnson Avenue were 31 MPH. The traffic volumes were low, averaging 543 vehicles per day for both directions. For Johnson Avenue, (a 25 MPH zone), 31 MPH qualified the street for traffic calming. New traffic data was collected in September, 2003 after school began. Traffic data is typically not collected during the summer as volumes and speeds are not representative of the 'normal' traffic flows. The new traffic data indicates the 85<sup>th</sup> speeds are now 25MPH while volumes remain the same. The traffic speeds were reduced, and staff considers the reduction in speed directly associated with the speed humps.

Additionally, there were concerns that installing devices on one street may divert the traffic problem to adjacent streets. The volume on Johnson remains low, and did not change significantly. These devices did not move vehicles over to adjacent streets.

A second, follow-up neighborhood vote was conducted in October, 2003. Staff sent a letter to residents of Johnson Avenue and Johnson Hollow with updated information on the outcome of new traffic data, and included a ballot form. The ballot asked if residents were in favor of having the speed humps become permanent or not. Seventy-seven (77) ballots were sent, of which thirty-nine (39) ballots were returned, a fifty-one percent (51%) return rate. Of these returned ballots, twenty-nine (29) residents voted "yes" and ten (10) voted "no," indicating seventy-four percent (74%) of the respondents support having the speed humps become permanent. This neighborhood vote indicates a good response rate and strong support for this proposal. (Attachments)

#### CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends Council approve the speed humps on Johnson Avenue as permanent emplacements, and close this traffic calming review. The effectiveness of the temporary devices is demonstrated by the new traffic data collected.

PAGE 3

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No additional costs for this project are anticipated. The final cost of this neighborhood's traffic calming project was \$7,400, (\$12,600 less than originally estimated at \$20,000), charged to Capital Improvement Project, Traffic Calming Program during the FY 02/03 budget, account number 400-0208. Ongoing maintenance costs to annually repaint the speed humps and replace related signs as needed are anticipated to be minimal and will be absorbed by the Streets Program operating budget.

Attachments:

1. October 10, 2003 Neighborhood Vote Notice
2. November 11, 2003 Traffic Calming Installation Notice
3. November 13, 2003 Traffic Calming Vote Outcome Notice
4. Permanent Traffic Calming Plan





# TOWN OF LOS GATOS

## PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(408) 399-5770

FAX (408) 354-8529

CIVIC CENTER  
110 E. MAIN STREET  
P.O. Box 949  
LOS GATOS, CA 95031

October 10, 2003

**Subject: Neighborhood Vote - Concerning Permanent Speed Humps for Johnson Avenue**

Dear Johnson Avenue Area Residents,

The temporary speed humps on Johnson Avenue were installed after a neighborhood vote indicated 67% of the neighborhood supported testing them to see if they would slow traffic. Traffic data collected on Johnson Avenue in 2002 indicated the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile vehicle speeds were 28.5 MPH with volumes at 543 vehicles per day. In September 2002, Council approved installing speed humps for a traffic calming effort. The speed humps were installed in December, 2002.

The neighborhood has had the opportunity to test the speed humps for almost a year. In September, 2003, new traffic data was collected indicating the vehicle speeds were lowered: 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds are now 25.7 MPH and volumes relatively unchanged, at 529 vehicles per day.

Following the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, the next step is to conduct a neighborhood vote to determine if 67% support is present to request having the speed humps become permanent. If the support is present, staff will prepare a report to the Town Council to obtain their final approval. (The neighborhood will be notified of the Council report date). If so approved, the traffic calming review for Johnson Avenue will be completed. If the support is not present, staff will recommend to Council for the removal of the speed humps.

A neighborhood 'ballot' form is included in this letter. Feedback from each resident/property owner in the affected neighborhood is being requested to determine if a super-majority (67%) of the neighborhood supports having these devices become permanent. **One vote is allowed per residence. Please complete the ballot form and return it to this department by October 31<sup>st</sup>.** If you have any need for additional information, please contact the Town's Traffic Engineer, Jessy Pu at 395-2859 or Public Work's Administrative Analyst, Mary Gillespie-Greenberg at 399-5776.

Sincerely,

John E. Curtis  
Director

Enclosure

**JOHNSON AVENUE AREA  
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL  
BALLOT**

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt/Site# \_\_\_\_\_

*circle response*

1) I am in favor of the Johnson Avenue speed humps becoming permanent devices:

**YES NO**

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this "ballot" by October 31, 2003 to:**

**PPW, 41 Miles Avenue, Los Gatos CA 95030**

*Thank you for participating in this public process.*



**Parks & Public Works Department**

# **NOTICE**

**Concerning Johnson Avenue**

**Traffic Calming**

**UPDATE**

This week the Town's Traffic Engineer is painting potential sites for the speed humps and bulb-outs to calm traffic on your street.

The traffic calming devices were approved by Town Council September 10, 2002, after a neighborhood vote was conducted in July 2002, (indicating 72.3% of Johnson Avenue residents support the installation of these traffic calming devices).

Please review the location and if you have any concerns, please contact the Town's Traffic Engineer, Jessy Pu at (408) 395-2859.

The devices have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery and will then schedule installation, anticipated for December-January, weather permitting.

Thank you for your input in this community process.

11-11-02





November 13, 2003

## INFORMATION NOTICE

**Re: Johnson Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Vote Outcome**

Dear Resident,

This letter is to update you on the traffic calming review process being conducted on Johnson Avenue. Residents of Johnson Avenue and Johnson Hollow were recently sent a ballot asking whether or not to have the Johnson Avenue speed humps become permanent. Many of you may recall these speed humps were installed in an effort to reduce vehicle speeds. They are the outcome of past neighborhood requests, meetings and a previous neighborhood vote, all of which were reported to the Town Council, who approved this traffic calming project.

Previous to the speed humps' installation, traffic data was collected several times, indicating **speeding on Johnson Avenue: the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds ranged from 31 to 29 MPH. The speed limit is 25 MPH.** After the trial speed humps were tested for several months, new traffic data was collected indicating **85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds have reduced to 25 MPH** and volumes remained the same. This indicates the speed humps reduced speeds but not driving patterns, which is what we were trying to accomplish.

### The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Ballot Proposal:

The recent ballot asked residents to vote "YES" or "NO" on having the trial speed humps become permanent devices. Additionally, we asked for comments. Of the seventy-seven (77) ballots sent to residents of Johnson Avenue and Johnson Hollow, (the designated voting neighborhood), thirty-nine (39) ballots were returned, indicating a fifty-one percent (51%) return rate, (a very good representative vote).

### The Vote Outcome:

The voting outcome was as follows: twenty-nine (29) residents voted "YES", and ten (10) voted "No", showing seventy-four percent (74%) are in favor, or support, the speed humps become permanent. The Town's Traffic Calming Policy requires a minimum of 67% neighborhood support for traffic calming proposals. The outcome of the neighborhood vote indicates the required 67% support is present for these devices to become permanent.

### Next Steps:

Your neighborhood now has a final traffic calming proposal (permanent speed humps). The next step in the traffic calming review process is for staff to present a report to Town Council with an update of the outcome of the test period (new data indicating reduced speeds) and the recent vote (indicating support for devices to become permanent). This staff report will be scheduled in the next several weeks, for December, 2003, or January, 2004. If approved by Council, the speed humps will stay permanent and the neighborhood traffic calming process will be completed. If you would like to be informed of the upcoming Council report date, or have any other questions, please contact the Parks and Public Works Department Analyst, Mary Gillespie-Greenberg at (408) 399-5776

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Curtis".

John E. Curtis  
Director  
Parks and Public Works Department



1" = 80'  
N

JOHNSON AVE PERMANENT TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN

