



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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December 20, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Netra Khatri, City Engineer

**PREPARER:** David Caisse, Assistant City Engineer

**DATE:** December 12, 2023

**TITLE:** **Adopt Resolution No. 234-22 Approving an Update to the City’s Existing Policy for Installing Speed Tables, Humps and Lumps for Residential and Local Streets.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 234-22 approving an update to the City’s existing Policy for Installing Speed Tables, Humps and Lumps for Residential and Local Streets.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

In February 2007, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 067-45 - Establishing a policy for Installing Speed Tables, Humps and Lumps for Residential and Local Streets. The current guidelines were adopted more than 15 years ago and outlined the process and evaluation criteria used to consider whether a speeding issue exists and whether a speed hump or humps would be effective in reducing traffic speeds. Under the current guidelines, to be eligible for speed hump consideration the street must be a residential or local street and must meet several different criteria. Although some streets seemed like ideal candidates for speed humps, the qualification requirements within the current policy were prohibitive and as such, did not warrant installation. After several similar occurrences on residential and other local streets, it was determined that a policy update was needed.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The policy update began with staff reviewing and comparing the City’s current policy with that of speed hump policies adopted by other local jurisdictions. Although many agencies’ policies were reviewed, staff targeted and modeled the changes based on agencies that were similar in size and nature to the City of Arcata. Once staff drafted a recommended policy update, staff worked with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) to develop and refine the policy further.

The updated policy includes a number of general updates to enhance clarity and interpretation of the policy. For example, new definitions were added to provide clarity with regard to some of the terminology that is used within the document. Speed humps were noted as being one of many different traffic calming measures, and even though an engineering analysis may recommend against speed humps, that other traffic calming devices may be suggested as part of the review process.

In addition to the general updates, many of the original criteria to consider installation of speed humps were relaxed or modified. For example, when it was feasible, the words “must” and “shall” were replaced with “may” and “should”. This change allows the Engineering Department a little more flexibility with regard to evaluation and acceptability for installation. Additional flexibility was also provided to account for consideration of unusual situations or special circumstances by stating that the policy is intended to be used as a “tool” for guidance and consistency throughout the City, but not a substitute for Engineering Judgement. Lastly, new conditions and/or processes were added as a result of the update. The current policy spoke only to resident requests; however, the new policy includes a process for when the City may recommend installation of speed humps as part of a larger transportation project or on local roads solely providing access to City parks and properties.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:**

This policy was developed in coordination with City’s Transportation Safety Committee.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

Adopting the proposed update to the City’s Existing Policy for Installing Speed Tables, Humps and Lumps for Residential and Local Streets will not have any effect on the environment. The policy update proposes minor changes of existing procedure for the warrants for installation of speed control devices, with an emphasis on clarifying the process for public and private projects that propose improvements in existing developed rights of way. There are no specific projects included in the policy that could have an effect on the environment. Instead, the policy will guide the design of future projects to ensure ease of use and safety for multiple and alternative modes of transportation. Any future project subject to the policy would require independent environmental review. Because it can be seen with certainty that the action will not have an effect on the environment, the City has adopted the common sense exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

No permanent budget impacts.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Resolution No. 234-22 Lumps and Humps Policy Update\_12-14-23 (PDF)