

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 25, 2005

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: KEN BERKMAN, CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: REPORT ON COUNTRY GLEN ROAD SHOULDER STRIPING

During the City's residential street overlay project last fall, the residents on Country Glen Road between Patrick Henry Place and Jim Bowie Road requested the speed humps that were removed as part of the project not be re-installed. On November 10, 2004, the City Council authorized staff to not re-install the speed humps and install shoulder striping. In addition, Council requested staff return with a report on the effectiveness of the shoulder striping. For your information, we are providing this report, analysis and conclusion.

As you are aware, the City has established specific guidelines to determine whether or not speed humps may be installed in residential streets. Studies revealed that excessive speeds were evident within this area on Country Glen; however, the traffic volumes did not meet the thresholds necessary to warrant speed hump installation. Given this type of "mixed" data, staff recommended the installation of shoulder stripes to visually narrow the roadway. In theory, this reduces driver confidence and results in reduced speeds.

The shoulder stripes were installed in February, so drivers have had two months to adjust to the new striping. The results of the "after" study reveal that, in general, both average and 85th percentile speeds were reduced by 2 mph. The 85th percentile speed is considered more critical than the average, as it sets our speed limits. At United Road (bottom of the hill), speeds went from 37 to 35 mph; while at Gadshill Lane (top of the hill) speeds were reduced from 34 to 32 mph. In addition, staff has received no complaints of speeding since the speed humps were removed and the striping installed.

CONCLUSION

In cases of "mixed" data and/or community support like Country Glen, staff concludes that installing shoulder striping is a relatively inexpensive option available to reduce vehicular speeds and create a safer traffic environment.