

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 10, 2009

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: RAMIRO ADEVA, CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: DISCUSS MEETING WITH THE OLD AGOURA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION REGARDING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AND RESULTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL SPEED HUMPS SURVEY

On February 25, 2009, the City Council directed staff to proceed with the distribution of surveys to each household affected by the potential installation of speed humps on Chesebro Road, north of Driver Avenue. In addition, staff was directed to meet with members of the Old Agoura Homeowners Association (HOA) to discuss other possible traffic calming alternatives. Also, staff reported at the last Council meeting that the specific criteria outlined in the City's speed hump policy had not been met, as it related to volume and speed. However, staff still recommended speed humps be installed, given the unique characteristics of this segment of public roadway, namely the rural, equestrian nature of the road, minimum paved width, a multitude of unevenly spaced driveways, and no definitive physical barrier between a pedestrian and/or horse-rider from motorists.

In early March, a total of 103 letters were sent to those homeowners that would be directly affected by the installation of speed humps on Chesebro Road. A total of 68 letters were returned, with 41 in favor, and 27 opposed. This represents a 60.3% approval rate of those that responded. At the February 25 Council meeting, staff indicated to Council that a 51% majority approval response would be used as the threshold for determining whether the general public was in favor of the speed humps being installed. Furthermore, the 51 percent would be applied to the number of actual respondents and not necessarily the total number of letters sent out. Although this threshold is not a formal part of the City's approved policy, it is consistent with prior considerations for the installation of speed humps.

On March 24, 2009, staff met with members of the Old Agoura HOA to discuss various traffic calming alternatives. That complete list included such things as added law enforcement, an aggressive public outreach program, speed humps, traffic circles/roundabouts, chicanes, refugees/slow points/chokers, curb extensions, and raised crosswalks. Among those mentioned, speed humps, chicanes, and chokers received the most attention. From a cost standpoint, speed humps cost approximately \$2,000, chicanes are \$5,000-\$10,000, and chokers are \$8,000-\$15,000. Staff also encouraged the HOA to continue its invaluable public awareness efforts through their HOA newsletter and word-of-mouth.

Staff remains consistent with the recommendation presented at the February 25, 2009, City Council meeting, given the same reasons as outlined above. Speed humps present the most cost-effective solution to assist the deterrence of speeding vehicles. In order to ensure that vehicles

do not swerve into the equestrian trail easement aligning the road to avoid the speed humps, staff will look at physical barriers, such as boulders, as a prevention measure that does not compromise the rural nature of the area.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council approve the installation of speed humps along Chesebro Road.