

<b>CITY OF SOLANA BEACH</b>	<b>Policy No. 25</b>
<b>COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> November 20, 2019 <b>Effective:</b> November 20, 2019
<b>GENERAL SUBJECT:</b> Traffic Calming	
<b>SPECIFIC SUBJECT:</b> Installation of Speed Cushions in Residential Neighborhoods	

**PURPOSE:** To establish a policy for the installation of speed cushions in residential neighborhoods.

**BACKGROUND:** One of the most common source of concern for the residents in Solana Beach is the traffic speed in residential neighborhoods. Staff has traditionally employed a number of measures to slow down traffic and make residential neighborhoods more user-friendly for walking and biking. However, in some neighborhoods the implemented measures have not been very effective. It has been demonstrated that introduction of a vertical deflection in roadways will force drivers to slow down. The main issue is that vertical deflections are essentially roadway obstacles for drivers and if improperly designed or placed in undesirable locations, will negatively affect neighborhoods.

While some residents support certain types of vertical deflections, such installations are not always favored among other community members and emergency responders. After extensive research and consultations with experts including the City’s traffic engineers, it is concluded that speed cushions are considered the most effective and least controversial traffic calming measures as compared to all other vertical deflections. Speed cushions have mild and gentle profile and when properly installed, drivers can travel between 10 to 15 MPH with little to no significant disruption. They may be placed longitudinally in the roadway in the direction of traffic with a gap specifically designed to match the wheel tracks of fire vehicles. Field tests reported by the Federal Highway Administration have shown speed cushions to reduce general vehicle speeds while providing little to no delay to fire vehicles since they are able to straddle the cushions.

**POLICY PROCEDURES:**

The City Council establishes the following policy for the installation of speed cushions in residential neighborhoods.

Section 1. Steps for Implementing Speed Cushions in Residential Neighborhoods

- a. Solana Beach residents may submit a request on behalf of their neighborhood for the proposed installation of speed cushions.
- b. City Staff determines if the roadway segment is eligible for the placement of speed cushions subject to the Roadway Segment Eligibility Criteria outlined in Section 2 below. If the roadway segment is determined to be ineligible, City Staff will meet with the residents of the neighborhood to discuss alternative traffic calming measures such as education, enforcement, signing and striping.
- c. If the roadway segment meets criteria “a” through “h” of the Roadway Segment Eligibility Criteria in Section 2, a speed survey will be conducted and evaluated by City Staff and City’s Traffic Engineer.
- d. Upon completion of the speed survey, City Staff will determine whether the request meets the Design Criteria outlined in Section 3 below. If it does not comply, City Staff will meet with the residents of the neighborhood to discuss alternative traffic calming measures such as education, enforcement, signage and striping. Requests that do not comply with this Policy would be assessed for other traffic calming measures or presented to the City Council for consideration.
- e. A preliminary speed cushion design including the number and proposed location(s) and the corresponding signage and striping for the speed cushions will be prepared by City Staff in consultation with the City’s Traffic Engineer, Fire Marshal, and Deputy Sheriffs pursuant to the Design Criteria of Section 3 below.
- f. A petition will be circulated by and within the neighborhood requesting the speed cushions to determine whether the proposal is acceptable as provided in the Community and Stakeholder Support Criteria in Section 4 below.
- g. If, following the petition conducted pursuant to subsection “f” above, the proposed speed cushions are determined to be acceptable to the neighborhood, a final design and location(s) of the proposed speed cushion(s) will be prepared by City Staff and presented to and confirmed with the neighborhood consistent with the preliminary design and circulated petition. The process would then move to subsection “i” below.
- h. If the neighborhood does not support the speed cushion installation, then Staff would return to Step “e” above. At this point Staff would also discuss alternative traffic calming measures such as education, enforcement, signage and striping or prepare a report for City Council’s consideration.
- i. City Staff implements the final speed cushion design subject to the available budget and/or an approved Capital Improvement Program project consistent with Section 5 below.

- j. After six months, the speed cushion installation will be evaluated for effectiveness. If the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is less than 28 mph, the speed cushion installation is considered effective and no further action is required. If the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 28 mph or above, the speed cushion installation is considered ineffective and the speed cushion installation is evaluated for possible removal. Input from the surrounding neighborhood would be considered before any speed cushions are removed.

## Section 2. Roadway Segment Eligibility Criteria

- a. Roadway is only 2 lanes wide (40 feet maximum width).
- b. Roadway is not a designated truck, bus or emergency route.
- c. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour (mph).
- d. The maximum grade of the roadway segment is 5%.
- e. The minimum length of the roadway segment is 500 feet.
- f. The minimum traffic volume is 300 vehicles per day.
- g. The maximum traffic volume is 4,000 vehicles per day.
- h. The 85th percentile speed exceeds 25 mph by 3 mph.
- i. Consideration should be given for speed related accident history and proximity to schools.

## Section 3. Design Criteria

- a. The design of the speed cushions is consistent with City of Solana Beach Speed Cushion Design Guide to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.
- b. If multiple speed cushions are considered, spacing should be approximately 200 feet apart (+/- 50 feet).
- c. Speed cushions are at least 150 feet from an intersection, horizontal curve or vertical curve.
- d. Proper signage and roadway legends shall be included in the installation.

## Section 4. Community and stake holder support Criteria

- a. 67% of the Property owners on the street segment are in support the installation (1 vote per property).
- b. 100% of the property owners immediately adjacent to the speed cushion support the installation and location (1 voter per property).
- c. Consideration should be given for diversion of vehicles to adjacent neighboring residential streets.
- d. Location will be reviewed and coordinated with emergency responders.

## Section 5. Funding Options (not in order of priority)

- a. Grant funding available for a portion or all of the proposed speed cushions.
- b. Project is included in the Capital Improvement Program project.
- c. Residents fund speed cushion installation.

Attachments:

- 1. Resolution of Policy Approval (Resolution 2019-107)
- 2. Petition for Installation of Speed Cushions

# Speed Cushion Petition



**City of Solana Beach  
Engineering Department  
635 South Highway 101  
Solana Beach, CA 92075**

We, the undersigned property owners hereby request the City of Solana Beach install speed cushions on \_\_\_\_\_ (street) between \_\_\_\_\_ (street) and \_\_\_\_\_ (street).

We certify that we are legal homeowners of the property affected by the proposed speed cushion. We understand that in order for the City to consider installing speed cushions, this petition requires that contact be made to every homeowner on the affected street segment and to obtain signatures in favor of the proposed speed cushion from at least 67% of property owners on the affected street segment and 100% of the property owners immediately adjacent to the proposed speed cushions. If no response is checked for an address, two separate attempts of contact are required with the date and time of attempted contact documented.

We, the undersigned, further understand the following:

- Speed cushions with related signage and pavement markings may be installed in front of my house or adjacent to my driveway approach and may eliminate our ability to park along the street.
- Installing speed cushions may increase noise levels and delay emergency response time.
- Speed cushions may affect the effectiveness of street sweeping operations.
- The proposed street segment must meet all requirements outlined in the City of Solana Beach Speed Cushion criteria and procedures.
- Receipt of this petition by the City of Solana Beach does not guarantee installation of speed cushions.

**Before you sign this petition, please be sure to read and understand the City of Solana Beach Council Policy for the Installation of Speed Cushions in Residential Neighborhoods (attached).**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> , I favor speed cushion on my street.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> , I do not favor speed cushion on my street.
<b>Address:</b> _____ <b>APN</b> _____	
<b>Signature:</b> _____	
<b>Name:</b> _____ <small>(Please Print)</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO RESPONSE</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)	

  

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> , I favor speed cushion on my street.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> , I do not favor speed cushion on my street.
<b>Address:</b> _____ <b>APN</b> _____	
<b>Signature:</b> _____	
<b>Name:</b> _____ <small>(Please Print)</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO RESPONSE</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)	

**CITY USE ONLY**  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

# Speed Cushion Petition



City of Solana Beach  
Engineering Department  
635 South Highway 101  
Solana Beach, CA 92075

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Address: _____ APN _____	
Signature: _____	
Name: _____ (Please Print)	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO RESPONSE	1 <sup>st</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Contact: _____ (date) : _____ (time)

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<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I favor speed cushion on my street.	<input type="checkbox"/> NO, I do not favor speed cushion on my street.
Address: _____ APN _____	
Signature: _____	
Name: _____ (Please Print)	
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