Speed Cushion Request – Main St

DATE: October 23, 2019
TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
FROM: Susan Habina-Woolard, PE- Town Engineer

Background/Issue:

- Main St is a primary entrance into the Old Town neighborhood. It is also an attractive cut-through for drivers not living in Old Town to avoid the traffic signal at John/Trade.
- Residents of Main St have petitioned for speed cushions to be placed on Main St. This process was previously termed “Speed Hump,” but since has been revised to “Speed Cushion” to reflect a change in the way the device is constructed to include wheel cut-outs for emergency vehicles.
- There was one location requested in the petition. This location is at 130 Main St and meets the speed and volume requirements for a speed cushion.
  - 85th percentile speed of 27.5 MPH, which exceeds 5 MPH over the 20 MPH posted speed
  - 1300 ADT, which exceeds the minimum 500 ADT per the policy
- The petition was reviewed in accordance with our normal policy but did not initially meet the requirements of the policy because only 42% of the required 75% of the residents in the affected area signed the petition.
  - Subsequently the neighbors sought more signatures; the petition now meets the requirement set forth at the beginning of the project.
- An all-way stop is located at the end of the block, the intersection of Main St and S Freemont St. Another all-way stop is located at Main St and S Ames St.

Proposal/Solution:
Staff discussed the Main St speed cushion request at the February 18, 2019, Development Review Team meeting. No staff members were opposed to the installation of the speed cushions, recognizing the cut-through nature of Main St and desire from residents to minimize speeds in this neighborhood. Emergency services is not opposed to the speed cushions.

Typically, the Engineering Division recommends speed cushions in pairs for the maximum effect of the device. Two additional locations were analyzed: 433 Main St and 333 Main St. The 85th percentile speeds were 20 mph and 27 mph, respectively. Both ADTs are still over the minimum 500 ADT. The majority of the signatures received were in the same block with 333 Main St. Therefore, a speed cushion at 333 Main St meets most of the speed hump criteria.
The Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the petition and associated data at their September 19, 2019, meeting and requested the petitioner obtain more signatures. This was done and the TAC heard the item again at their October 17, 2019 meeting. At that meeting, the TAC neither voted for nor against the speed cushions.

**Fiscal Impact:**
This will impact approximately $1,200 from the Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation line item. There is money in this year's budget to cover the expense.

**Related Town Goals and Strategies:**
To identify, plan, design, fund and build transportation facilities that efficiently and effectively serve the community in a cost-effect and environmentally-sensitive manner.

**Recommendation Action:**
Most of the criteria are met for the installation of speed cushions. Therefore, Staff recommends approving the installation of speed cushions near 130 Main St and 333 Main St.
Exhibit: Proposed speed cushion locations