

Traffic Calming for Livable Neighborhoods

Traffic calming is the combination of both policies and measures that help decrease the negative impacts to local streets and neighborhoods caused by motor vehicles. Although traffic calming techniques did not begin to be readily implemented in the United States until the 1980's, there are many examples that already exist. In Europe and Australia, some of these same techniques have been used long before the 1970's. Many of the successful techniques used there are into their second and third generation. Their effectiveness has been proven and many appear to be part of the original street design rather than as an afterthought.

Traffic calming techniques were developed to reduce speeding problems and heavy traffic flow on residential streets. By making some residential streets more "calm" it makes the neighborhood more livable. Although "livable" in terms of a neighborhood does not have a precise definition, a livable neighborhood can be described as having the following characteristics:

- Ability to feel safe and secure,
- Opportunity to interact with neighbors,
- Ability to experience a sense of home and privacy, and
- A sense of community identification.

In essence, when a citizen calls to request a stop sign to slow traffic on their street, they are requesting the city make their street more livable.

Because no single answer for the problem of speeding vehicles on residential streets exists, many different traffic calming techniques have been developed. These techniques range from the traditional, such as radar display boards and

selective police enforcement to non-traditional such as speed bumps, diverters, street chokers and roundabouts.

Use of Speed Bumps



The City has established a policy whereby requests for the installation of speed bumps (road undulations) can be processed and analyzed. This policy establishes procedures and criteria for the installation of these road undulations on public streets. What follows is a summary of the procedure and criteria.

Policy

A request must originate from the residents of the street upon which the undulation is intended and must take the form of a formal petition in a format provided by the City. These are circulated on all streets the City establishes might be affected by the undulation. At least 75% of the residents must sign the petition for the process to continue.

Once a valid petition is received and accepted, certain criteria (warrants) must be met for the undulation to be approved.

Warrants

Warrants which must be satisfied include such things as: traffic volumes must range between 500 and 2500 vehicles per day, the speed limit must be 25 MPH, more than 2/3 of the motorists exceed the speed limit or 85% must exceed the limit by more than 10 MPH, the street must have good visibility, the street must be residential in nature, street lighting must be present and the installation won't result in diversion of traffic to other residential streets.

Procedure

The procedure for processing the request includes verification of the petitions, collecting the necessary traffic data to analyze the warrants, verifying compliance with the warrants, making recommendations to the City Council for approval and then field locating each undulation prior to installation.

Installation

The City will have an annual contract for installation of road undulations which will be constructed per adopted design standards. Installation will include all appropriate striping, signing and road markings.

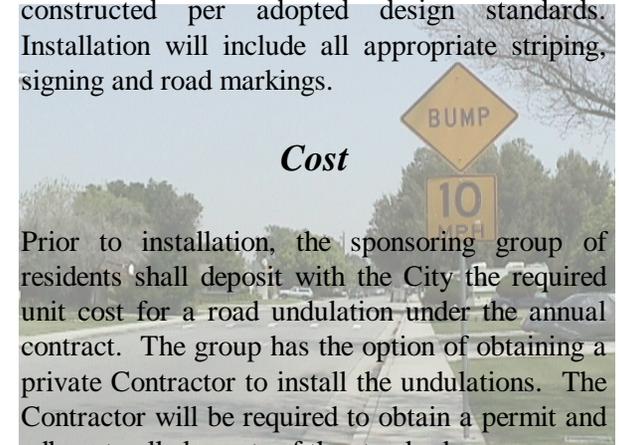
Cost

Prior to installation, the sponsoring group of residents shall deposit with the City the required unit cost for a road undulation under the annual contract. The group has the option of obtaining a private Contractor to install the undulations. The Contractor will be required to obtain a permit and adhere to all elements of the standards.

Text of Official Policy

The City Council has formally adopted a policy on the use of "road undulations". The full text of the policy is available upon request as a separate pamphlet entitled "*Official*" *POLICY OF THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD RELATIVE TO THE USE OF ROAD UNDULATIONS FOR TRAFFIC SPEED CONTROL ON PUBLIC STREETS*.

A copy of the signed adopted resolution you may also be obtained by accessing the City website at the URL listed on the cover of this pamphlet. Go



to the City Manager's page under Administration and look for the link to City Records (document Imaging), you can then Search on the key word "speed undulation" and find the signed and adopted version of the resolution. From there, use your web browser to print the document.

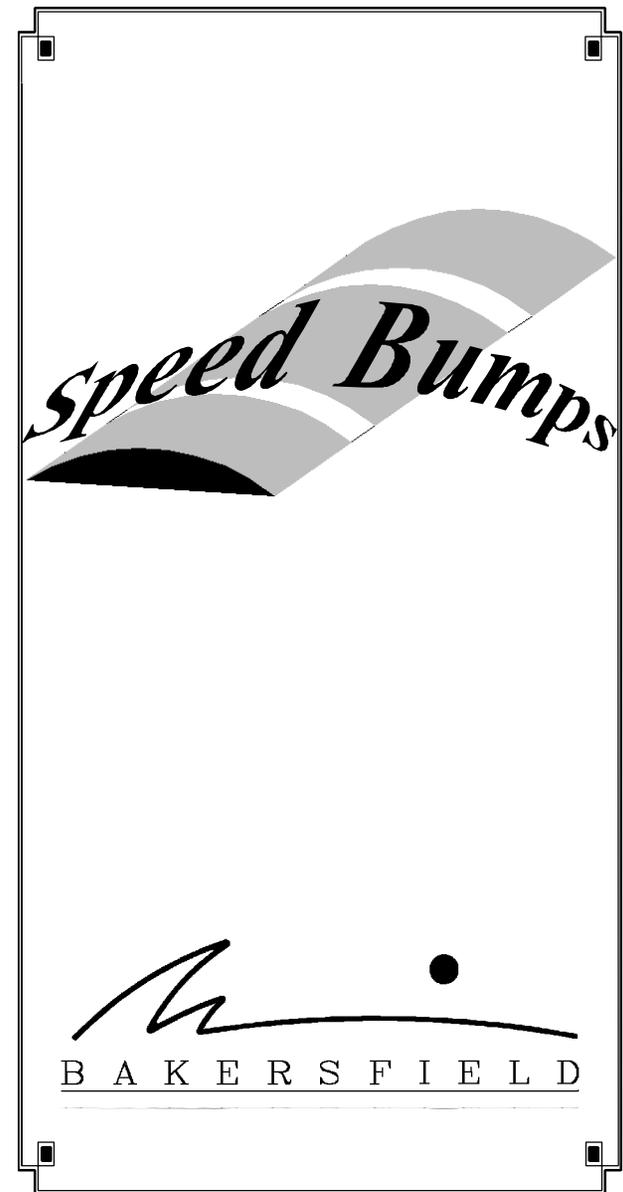
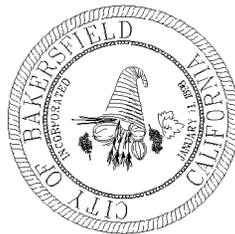
Citizen Concerns

The City takes our role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the motorist in Bakersfield. Although we receive over 200 citizen requests per year, we try to investigate your request as quickly as work load permits. We will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Other Traffic Information Brochures Available

- Adult School Crossing Guards
- Left Turn Traffic Signals
- Marked Crosswalks
- Neighborhood Traffic Safety
- School Routes
- Speed Limits
- Stop Signs & Traffic Signals
- Traffic Signal Systems

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