

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ALL of the following criteria must be satisfied for a street to be considered eligible for installation of a speed hump.

1. Location of the street. The uses of the properties abutting the street where the speed hump is proposed must be composed primarily of low-density residential dwellings.
2. Operational Characteristics of the Street.
 - A. The street must be used to provide access to abutting low-density residential properties, known as a local residential street, and/or must be used to collect traffic for such streets, known as a residential collector street.
 - B. There must be no more than one moving lane of traffic in each direction.
 - C. Fifteen percent or more of the vehicles using the street must exceed the Speed Criteria, which is five miles per hour above the legal speed limit.
 - D. The Street must have a speed limit of thirty miles per hour or less, as determined in accordance with State Law.
 - E. The Street must not be so close to a Fire Department facility as to significantly interfere with emergency vehicle operations.
 - F. The Street must not be a part of any Major Roadways shown on the current Thoroughfare Plan.
 - G. The Street must not be part of the State Highway System.
3. Geometric Characteristics of the Street.
 - A. The street must have adequate sight distances to safely accommodate the speed hump, as determined by the Traffic Department.
 - B. The Street must not have curves or grades that prevent safe placement of the speed hump. A speed hump may be located on a street that contains curves and/or grades, but the speed hump itself should not be located within a significant horizontal curve or a vertical grade greater than eight percent.
 - C. The street must have a history that shows the need for traffic calming. New subdivision developments cannot design new facilities that include speed humps.
 - D. Private property inside the City Limits is not governed or controlled by this Speed Hump Installation Policy.
4. Petition A petition that documents that more than two thirds of the households in low-density residential dwellings on the street support the installation of speed humps.

B. SPEED HUMP REMOVAL

One or more of the following criteria will be used to determine if an existing speed hump will be removed.

1. Petition. A petition that documents that more than 80% of the households in low-density residential dwellings on the street where an existing speed hump is located support its removal. Removal of the speed hump will be scheduled at the discretion of the City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board as recommended to the City Commission.

2. Existing Speed Humps. Any speed hump in place at the time that this policy is adopted will remain in place until maintenance of the speed hump is needed. At that time, the City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board will determine if the speed hump meets all the eligibility Requirements, except the Petition requirement. If it does not, then the speed hump will be removed. Removal of the speed hump will be scheduled at the discretion of the city of San Benito Traffic Safety Board.

C. SPEED HUMP LOCATION

A speed hump must not be located in front of a property if the occupant of the property objects to its placement or, in the case of a property containing low density multiple dwellings, if a majority of the households on the property object to its placement. Verification of this requirement is the responsibility of the applicant or applicants. the exact speed hump location is subject to traffic safety and operations requirements. Speed hump cannot be placed less than 500' from a State Highway System or a major thoroughfare.

D. DESIGN STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.

1. The City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board shall prepare and maintain current design standards and installation procedures for speed humps in accordance with this policy.

PROCEDURES FOR SPEED HUMP INSTALLATION

The initial request for the installation of speed humps must originate from one or more of the residents living on that street. A request in writing from a resident or representative must be delivered to the City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board or forwarded to the address listed below. The request must include the name, address and telephone number of the person making the request.

Speed Hump Program
City of San Benito
401 North Sam Houston
San Benito, Texas 78586

1. A preliminary determination of eligibility based on available traffic data will be made in a timely manner.
 - A. The Traffic Department will determine if the street meets ALL the Eligibility Requirements in the Speed Hump Installation Policy, except the Petition requirement. These are the minimum requirements.
 - B. If the Traffic Department determines that the street does not meet the minimum requirements for installation of a speed hump, the applicant will be given written notification of that determination and its reasons. This decision may be appealed in writing to the City Managers Office within fifteen days of the notification date. Management will review the determination and respond to the applicant or applicants with thirty days of the appeal request.
 - C. If the Traffic Department determines that the street meets the minimum requirements for installation of the speed hump, the City of San Benito Traffic Department will advise the applicant that they must submit a petition indicating that a minimum of two-thirds of the low-density dwelling households on the street support the installation of speed humps, as provided in the speed hump policy. Only petition forms supplied by the City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board or exact duplicates may be used for this purpose.

D. Schools and Churches are exempt from the 80% street consensus requirement.

2. After verification of the petitions, the City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board will solicit comments and recommendations from staff and the San Benito Police Department. A determination of the street's eligibility for speed hump installation will be made in a timely manner, based on the speed hump policy.

A. If the street is determined to be eligible for a speed hump, the street will be placed on a List of Streets Approved for Speed Hump Installation.

3. Upon funding approval, the speed humps will be installed, as scheduling permits.

4. Questions and Answers about Speed Humps

Q. Is a speed hump really necessary?

A. Not in all cases. Before it can be determined if a speed hump is really necessary, you must first contact and report the traffic problem to the San Benito Police Department (956-361 3880) so that a record can be established that there is indeed a problem, in some cases this is all that's needed. You may also contact the City of to determine if any additional traffic control signage is necessary. And as for any emergency, you can call 911.

Q. Why do we have speed Humps?

A. Speeding on residential streets is a common complaint of concerned citizens. Although enforcement of speed limits by police departments is an effective means of reducing speeds, limited resources do not allow such enforcements .on a regular and permanent basis. Research has shown that speed humps are an effective approach to slowing down traffic on residential streets.

Q. What is a speed hump and how is it different from a speed bump?

A. A speed hump is a gradual rise and fall of the pavement surface along the roadway extending across the .pavement width. Generally, speed humps used on residential streets are 12 to 22 feet long with a maximum height of 3 to 4 inches. Speed "humps" are different from speed "bumps", which are seen in many private parking lots.

A speed bump is abrupt, having a height of 3 to 4 inches .over a length of 1 to 3 feet. Speed bumps cause most vehicles to slow down to almost a stop to go over it: Speed humps, on the other hand, are designed so most vehicles can go over them at 20 mph without causing driver discomfort.

Q. Do speed humps delay Emergency Vehicles?

A. Yes!! Speed humps slow down the Emergency Vehicles significantly, therefore, delaying their arrival.

Q. Do speed humps reduce cut-through traffic?

A. The primary purpose of speed humps is to reduce the speeds of vehicles traveling along a roadway. Traffic diversion due to speed humps is a side effect which may or may not result. A possible disadvantage of speed humps is that motorist may avoid the speed humps by using other nearby streets in the area.

Q. How is a driver warned of the presence of speed humps?

A. On any street with speed humps, warning signs such as "Road Humps Ahead" are placed before the beginning of each series of humps. To be properly visible, the speed hump is marked with white strips.

Q. What will happen if I go over speed humps at high speeds?

A. At high speeds a speed hump can cause significant driver discomfort. At such speeds it can act as a bump and jolt the vehicle's suspension and cause loss of occupants or cargo and in some instances could cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

Q. Can speed humps be placed on any street?

A. Speed humps are placed only on residential streets with not more than two lanes and with a speed limit of 20 mph. Exceptions are made with speed limits of up to 30 mph. For safety reasons, speed humps are not installed on streets with high traffic volume or curves.

Q. What type of speed humps does the city of San Benito use?

A. The City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board uses the circular speed hump, which is 16 feet long, and used on those residential streets which provide access to multiple streets in the neighborhood.

Q. How can I get speed humps on my street?

A. Applications are available at the City of San Benito, City Secretary's Office ** The City of San Benito Traffic Safety Board reserves the right to decline any application that does not meet ALL Eligibility Requirements. SEE EXHIBIT "A"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of San Benito approves Resolution 2012-6 as the Speed Hump Installation Policy.

Approved and Ratified by the City Commission of the City of San Benito on this 3rd day of April 2012.

CITY OF SAN BENITO

ATTEST:

JOE HERNANDEZ, MAYOR

LUPITA PASSEMENT, CITY SECRETARY

EXHIBIT "A"



CITY OF SAN BENITO
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
485 North Sam Houston
San Benito, TEXAS 78586
PH. 956-361 3800 FAX: 361 3805

Request for Speed Hump Investigation

The following is a request for speed humps (please feel free to submit this form as a formal request). Each request must contain the completed information in both A and B. Please drop the completed form at the following.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
401 North Sam Houston
San Benito, Texas 78586
PH: 956-361 3800 FAX: 361 3805

A. Street Study Information

Each request must provide the name of the street on which a study is requested and the boundaries of the street segment. Traffic studies will be conducted only within the boundaries indicated. Please use the streets for boundary limits, not block ranges.

Requested Street:

From:

Boundary Area:

To:

B. Contact Person Information

Each request must provide a contact person who lives within the requested portion of street. The contact person will receive all correspondence and be responsible for gathering evidence of support when requested.

Name

Address

San Benito, Texas

Zip:

Phone:

I AGREE TO BE THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE ABOVE REQUEST AND I UNDERSTAND THAT A REQUESTER MAY NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM CONSIDERATION ONCE A TRAFFIC STUDY DETERMINES THE STREET TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SPEED HUMPS.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Note: NAME PRINT, SIGNATURE, ADDRESS, CONTACT PHONE NUMBER OF 80% OF THE RESIDENTS RESIDING IN THE REQUESTED SEGMENT OF STREET BEING STUDIED, MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION

CITY OF SAN BENITO SPEED HUMP REQUEST

Traffic Department
485 North Sam Houston
SAN BENITO, TEXAS 78586
PH: 956-361 3800 FAX: 361 3805

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	PHONE # OR EMAIL	SIGNATURE