

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2003

TITLE: Lake Hogan Farm Road Traffic Calming Request

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO ___ X ___
ATTACHMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Town Code AmendmentB. ResolutionC. PetitionD. Vicinity MapE. Traffic Count LocationsF. Illustration of Speed TableG. TAB RecommendationH. Examples of Cost Sharing for Traffic Calming Devices	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale McKeel – 918-7329

PURPOSE

The Town of Carrboro's Residential Traffic Management Plan provides an opportunity for residents to petition for traffic calming measures on neighborhood streets. Residents of Lake Hogan Farm Road have petitioned the Town of Carrboro to install traffic calming measures on their street. A town code amendment and resolution have been prepared for the Board's adoption.

INFORMATION

The Town of Carrboro's Residential Traffic Management Plan (RTMP) provides a mechanism for residents to petition for the installation of traffic calming devices. The RTMP is available on-line at <http://townofcarrboro.org/pzi/PDFs/TrafficMangPlan.pdf>

Residents of Lake Hogan Farms first contacted Town staff last summer regarding their concerns about speeding and desire for traffic calming devices. However, at that time the streets had not been accepted for Town maintenance and the Board of Aldermen had instructed staff in May 2002 not to accept petitions for traffic calming devices until funding for traffic calming was available. Residents discussed alternatives with staff, including the modification of the conditional use permit for Lake Hogan Farms to allow traffic calming devices and the willingness of residents to provide private funding for the installation of traffic calming. By mid-fall, after the streets had been accepted and the budget situation had become less constrained, Town staff, at the Town Manager's direction, notified the residents that a petition could be submitted.

In January residents of Lake Hogan Farms Road submitted a petition requesting the installation of speed humps (Attachment B). At least 75 percent of the occupants of the properties with

driveways on the affected street have signed the petition. Speed humps were requested at the following locations:

- Between Homestead Road and Lake Manor Road (one hump)
- Between Commons Way and Long Meadows Road (one hump)

Attachment C provides a vicinity map of the area where traffic calming has been requested. Lake Hogan Farm Road is a “collector” street with 34-foot pavement width, a sidewalk on the east side side, and bikelanes. The connector roads plan shows Lake Hogan Farm Road being extended to Eubanks Road in the future. There are already multi-way stop signs at the intersections of Lake Hogan Farm Road with Lake Manor Road, Hogan Woods Circle, and Commons Way Drive.

ANALYSIS OF REQUEST

The processing of this petition was delayed in part due to the presence of storm debris on Lake Hogan Farm Road. In February and April, after the storm debris was removed, Public Works staff recorded traffic counts and vehicle speeds at four locations on Lake Hogan Farm Road. Attachment C shows the locations where recordings were made. The results are as follows:

Date	Address	Vehicles Per Day	85 th Percentile Speed
February 12-13	Speed limit sign near entrance	2228	34.57 mph
February 12-13	123 Lake Hogan Farm Road	2193	37.30 mph
February 12-13	South of Bolin Creek Bridge	1474	34.52 mph
February 12-13	North of Bolin Creek Bridge	1469	36.88 mph
April 22-23	Speed limit sign near entrance	2253	34.66 mph
April 22-23	123 Lake Hogan Farm Road	2195	36.72 mph
April 22-23	South of Bolin Creek Bridge	1359	35.01 mph
April 22-23	North of Bolin Creek Bridge	1340	36.06 mph

The “vehicles per day” column lists the total number of vehicles that passed this point on the street in both directions during a 24-hour period. The “85th percentile speed” is that speed at or below which 85 percent of the vehicles were moving. For instance, if the 85th percentile speed is 35 mph, then 85 percent of the vehicles were going 35 mph or lower, while 15 percent of the vehicles were going faster than 35 mph. Counts and speeds were monitored for multiple days; the chart lists the highest vehicle and speed counts recorded during a 24-hour period.

One of the criteria in the town’s Residential Traffic Management Plan is that 85th percentile speeds must exceed 35 mph (10 mph above the posted speed limit) in order for traffic calming measures to be installed on a street. At three of the four points where speeds were recorded, the 85th percentile speeds exceeded 35 mph, and at the fourth point (the speed limit sign near the entrance from Homestead Road), the 85th percentile speed was 0.34 mph less than 35 mph.

Because Lake Hogan Farm Road is a collector street that in the future is to be extended to Eubanks Road, Town planning staff has had numerous conversations with Fire Department personnel about the placement of traffic calming devices on this street. In general, the Fire Department has concerns about the placement of speed humps on Lake Hogan Farm Road.

The characteristics and function of Lake Hogan Farms Road suggest that alternative traffic calming device may be more appropriate for use on Lake Hogan Farm Road. Speed tables are suggested. Compared with speed humps, speed tables provide less of an impediment to emergency vehicles and have less impact on emergency response times, while reducing vehicle speeds. Speed tables are 8 feet longer than speed humps (22 feet versus 14 feet), and have a more gradual rise with a flat area on top of at least ten feet (see Attachment F). While speed tables cost more than speed humps to construct, they often can provide a community enhancement through the use of colored and stamped asphalt.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Town staff recommends that speed tables be placed at the following locations:

- One speed table between Homestead Road and Lake Manor Road.
- One speed table at the point where the greenway trail crosses Lake Hogan Farm Road north of the Bolin Creek bridge, where the speed table will function as a raised crosswalk.

The exact location of the speed tables will be determined in the field in consultation with the Town Engineer and Public Works Department. This is to ensure that the speed tables do not negatively impact drainage on the street or impede other operations, such as street sweeping and snow removal.

In addition to speed tables, Town staff also recommends the following additional features be added to Lake Hogan Farms Road:

- The creation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Lake Hogan Farm Road and Long Meadows Road (vehicle traveling north on Lake Hogan Farm Road currently do not have to stop).
- A painted crosswalk at the intersection of Lake Hogan Farm Road and Long Meadows Road and re-painted stop bars at locations where the stop bars have faded. This restriping will be done after the final layer of asphalt has been added to the affected streets and intersections.

In addition, Town staff recommends that the Town Code be amended to put into place stop sign locations and speed limits for the streets in Lake Hogan Farms recently accepted by the Town.

SUMMARY OF TAB REVIEW

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) reviewed this request on May 1. The TAB recommends that the Board of Aldermen support the staff recommendation for placement of speed tables and also recommends that signage be placed at pedestrian crossings to improve visibility (Attachment G).

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated construction cost for two speed tables is \$6000. Some funds for this construction are available in the Public Works Department's budget, and the Board of Aldermen may wish to consider including funds for traffic calming devices during the upcoming budget discussions.

In light of the stated interest by Lake Hogan Farms residents to provide funding for traffic calming devices, the Board of Aldermen may wish to consider a policy of splitting the cost of new speed tables with residents. As discussed in Attachment H, other municipalities have developed cost-sharing programs.

Town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen consider a change to the Residential Traffic Management Program requiring that residents provide 50 percent of the construction cost of traffic calming devices. This requirement would be waived for streets that are determined to be in low or moderate income areas based on Census data and property tax records.

Town staff proposes that the Board of Aldermen consider a modification to the Residential Traffic Management Program requiring cost sharing in the construction of traffic calming devices.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the ordinance amending the Town Code to define speed limits and stop sign locations on Town-accepted streets in Lake Hogan Farm Road (Attachment A). The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution approving the placement of two speed tables on Lake Hogan Farm Road and other actions, and provide direction on whether there should be additional analysis of a modification to the Residential Traffic Management Program requiring cost sharing in the construction of traffic calming devices (Attachment B).