



# Speed Hump Policy

City of Valdosta  
Department of Engineering  
Amended September 14, 2010

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## **I. CITY OF VALDOSTA SPEED HUMP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

In response to numerous complaints about speed problems in neighborhoods, the City of Valdosta Engineering Department has studied other similar communities and how those communities have addressed residential speeding problems. One popular and cost effective measure is the installation of speed humps. When properly designed and installed, and with strong community support, speed humps are effective at reducing speeds in neighborhoods. After much experimentation and testing, the use of speed humps has been formally endorsed by transportation authorities worldwide. In the United States, a policy on the use of speed humps has been developed by a special committee of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The following policy has been established for the citizens of Valdosta who want to pursue the installation of speed humps in their neighborhoods.

**WHO:** A speed study should first be conducted at the request of a property owner or legal resident prior to the submittal of a valid petition.

**WHERE:** The City of Valdosta will only consider installation of speed humps on streets classified as local, residential streets, or on other streets showing need as shown by a detailed engineering study.

**WHY:** Traffic studies must find that a speeding problem exists, based on a standard 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit. However, if 100% of the residents on a street sign the petition, then the City Engineer has the discretion to reduce the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile by 10%, if it is felt the need is warranted.

**HOW:** Results of the neighborhood traffic study will be presented along with a presentation on speed humps. Then via “formal” petition, 70% of the property owners or legal residents must affirm the installation of speed humps.

**KIND:** The geometric design of speed humps has been proven to be a critical factor in their effectiveness. Based on extensive research, speed humps will be constructed with specifications as outlined in “Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps,” as published by ITE. Figure 1 shows a typical section.

**WHAT IF:** The Homeowners or legal residents want the Speed Humps removed?

- (a) If the Homeowners Association or representative group chooses to remove the humps, it then becomes the responsibility of the group to cover all costs for this removal. Costs will be prorated based on the frontage per linear foot of each property adjoining the street, and
- (b) The humps have been in place for at least one (1) year, and
- (c) 70% of the property owners or legal residents, via “formal” petition request their removal, and
- (d) The homeowners or legal residents are made aware that speeds will increase.

For subdivisions not completely built out, a minimum of 30% of the total units must be occupied before a petition for the installation of speed humps will be considered, and a minimum of 60% of the total units must be occupied before a petition for removal of speed humps will be considered.

The City of Valdosta Engineering Department takes the position that while speed humps are effective in reducing speeds in neighborhoods, their installation may be controversial. The key is that we present the facts as we know them, so property owners can make an informed decision.

## II. PETITION AND COVER LETTER

The objective of the City of Valdosta Speed Hump Program is to provide property owners and or legal residents a process to install asphalt speed humps on City maintained neighborhood streets, where engineering studies indicate that their use would meet the desired results of reducing neighborhood speeds and their installation is favored by a majority of the property owners in the area.

Prior to having speed humps installed in Valdosta, the speed study must be conducted and if speed humps are warranted then a petition should be submitted to the office of the City Engineer. ALL of the property owners or legal residents in the subdivision should be contacted and given an opportunity to sign this petition, indicating their “yes” or “no” concerning the installation of speed humps. (If both husband and wife are joint legal owners, both signatures are required. A “Mr. and Mrs.” signature is not acceptable. ALL owners must sign individually). This includes owners of undeveloped lots. No signature will be withdrawn from the petition after it is filed with the Engineering Department. The purpose of the witness’ signature is to verify the signatures of the property owners and or legal resident. The percentages will be calculated based on the individual lots where owners sign affirmatively divided by the total number of lots where the plotted subdivision, units, or “defined service area.” Each lot counts as only one vote, regardless of the number of owners signing. At least 70% of the homeowners and or legal residents must vote in favor of the speed humps before petitions can be presented to the City Council.

The completed petition must be signed, notarized, and then returned to the office of the City Engineer where it will be checked against tax records and land lot maps to insure that it meets all requirements. It will be returned to the sender if it does not meet the requirements. Petitions that do meet the requirements will be presented to the City Council for approval or disapproval. The sender will be notified of the date and time that the petition will be considered by the City Council.

The installation of speed humps will not be considered final until personnel of the Engineering Department inspect the humps for compliance with design specifications.

**(SAMPLE OF FORMAL PETITION)**

City of Valdosta  
Engineering Department  
P. O. Box 1125  
Valdosta, GA 31703  
(912) 259-3530

**PETITION FOR SPEED HUMPS**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, ALL BEING PROPERTY OWNERS AND OR LEGAL  
RESIDENTS OF THE SUBDIVISION LEGALLY RECORDED AND TITLED

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

DO HEREBY PETITION THE CITY OF VALDOSTA MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR  
THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS ON THE FOLLOWING LISTED  
STREET(S):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

THERE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ (#) LOTS CURRENTLY EXISTING ALONG THE STREET(S)  
IN QUESTION AND EACH OWNER AND OR LEGAL RESIDENTS SHOWN ON  
THE TAX RECORDS HAS AFFIRMATIVELY SIGNED THIS PETITION OR  
GIVEN THEIR INDICATION OF DISAPPROVAL AS NOTED HEREIN.

THIS PETITION REPRESENTS \_\_\_\_\_ % OR MORE OF THE AFFECTED  
PROPERTY OWNERS AND OR LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(SAMPLE OF SPECIAL NOTE)

City of Valdosta  
Engineering Department  
P. O. Box 1125  
Valdosta, GA 31703  
(912) 259-3530

“SPECIAL NOTE”

YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS PETITION INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA SPEED HUMP PROGRAM MANUAL, THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN AND UNDERSTAND THE PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF SPEED HUMPS ON YOUR STREET, AND THAT YOUR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THEIR INSTALLATION/REMOVAL IS CALCULATED INTO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES RECEIVED.

Personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, the undersigned affiant(s), who says on oath that each one is a subscribing witness to the within instrument; that said witness saw the execution and delivery of the same by each grantor therein for the purpose set forth; and that each of said witnesses signed the same as purported.

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
Lowndes County, State of Georgia

\_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribing Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribing Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribing Witness

## SAMPLE SPEED HUMP FORMAL PETITION

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Your signature on this petition indicates that you have read and understand the City of Valdosta Speed Hump Program Manual, that you have been shown and understand the physical dimensions and proposed locations of Speed Humps on your street and that your approval or disapproval of their installation/removal is calculated into the total number of responses received.

SUBDIVISION NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Please print legibly and be sure to record your address.

	Owner	Renter	Address	Agree	Circle
				Yes	No
_____ Print Name – First, Last	_____	_____	_____		
_____ Signature					
_____ Print Name – First, Last	_____	_____	_____		
_____ Signature					
_____ Print Name – First, Last	_____	_____	_____		
_____ Signature					
_____ Print Name – First, Last	_____	_____	_____		
_____ Signature					
_____ Print Name – First, Last	_____	_____	_____		
_____ Signature					