

# Agenda Report

July 1, 2002

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE SPEED HUMPS REQUEST FOR LAGUNA ROAD BETWEEN BURLEIGH DRIVE AND SAN RAFAEL AVENUE**

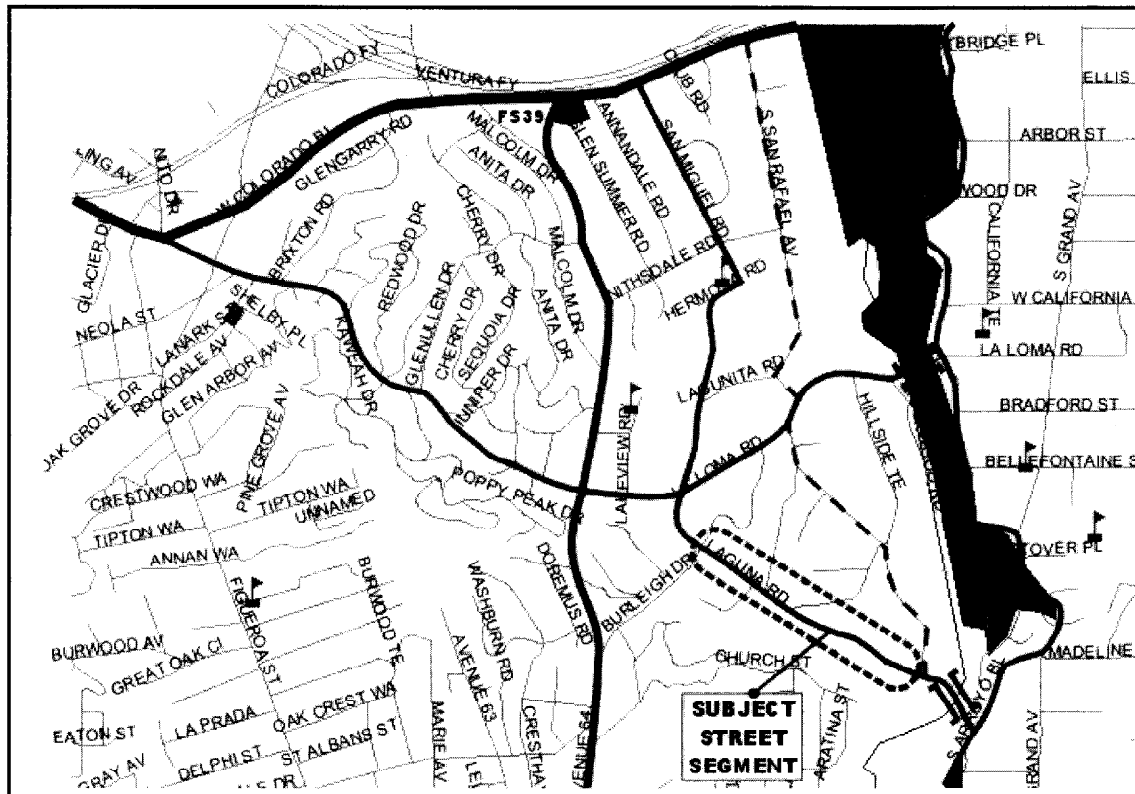
**RECOMMENDATION:**

Information only

**BACKGROUND:**

In November 2001, several Laguna Road/South San Rafael Avenue residents requested the City to install speed humps on Laguna Road between Burleigh Drive and South San Rafael Avenue. Upon reviewing these requests, staff conducted an evaluation and concluded that the requested street segment is not eligible for speed hump installation based on the following criteria according to the City's Speed Humps Policies adopted in November 1985 and amended Procedures in February 1989 (see Attachment 1):

1. Laguna Road is designated as a collector street, which services not only the Laguna Road residents but also the residents in the general area. Speed humps are generally installed on local residential streets where the primary function is to provide access to abutting residents.
2. The posted speed limit on Laguna Road is 30 MPH; however, the OPERATING SPEED (or the speed at or below which 85% of motorists travel) is about 38/39 MPH. Speed humps are normally installed on streets with a speed limit of 25 MPH. Experience has shown that the comfortable speed over speed humps is about 15 mph.
3. The Fire Department considers Laguna Road between La Loma Road and the southern City limit as a primary emergency route. Furthermore, Avenue 64, La Loma Road, and Laguna Road are the three primary routes for Fire Station 39 in responding to emergency calls in the Lower Arroyo Seco area.



Since the requested street segment did not meet the established criteria during the preliminary evaluation for speed humps installation, a detailed engineering review was not initiated.

### **RECENT IMPROVEMENTS**

In response to the Laguna Road residents' concerns for speeding and lack of sidewalk, the City has recently refurbished the edgeline striping on Laguna Road. These edgelines create an approximate 8-foot buffer on both sides of Laguna Road to accommodate both parked cars and walkers. The Police Department has also been requested to increase its speed patrol in the general area. The portable electronic speed display unit has been deployed on this street in the past and will also be used in the future as the unit becomes available.

Staff also re-evaluated the eligibility of an All-Way STOP at Laguna Road/Burleigh Drive and Laguna Road/San Rafael Avenue based on the newly revised Residential STOP Warrants. Due to the relatively low side street traffic volume entering these intersections, and the good safety records, the residential STOP warrants were not met.



### **POTENTIAL UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

Residents who live in this area primarily use Avenue 64 and Laguna Road for traversing north-south through the City. Should speed humps be installed on Laguna Road, motorists (including emergency responses) are likely to use La Loma Road and San Rafael Avenue to access Arroyo Boulevard. Therefore, it is likely that the traffic volumes on those streets will increase and prompt the residents to requests similar actions. Installation of speed humps on Laguna Road will slightly increase the emergency response time for the law enforcement and emergency vehicles.

### **CURRENT STATUS OF LAGUNA ROAD PETITIONS**

During the months of October and November 2001, 11 residents requested that the City install speed humps on Laguna Road between Burleigh Drive and South San Rafael Avenue. One resident contacted the City to oppose hump installation. A total of 41 parcels abut the requested street segment. Should the petition be continued, additional 16 property owners/residents in support of the installation must be submitted (65% or more). A Council action in favor of installing speed humps would override the petition process or Council could make approval contingent on the successful completion of the petition process.

### **ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR SPEED HUMPS INSTALLATION**

In accordance with the adopted Policies and Procedures for speed humps installation, the City has developed a two-step evaluation process to ensure consistent practice is followed. When a request is made, a Preliminary Evaluation is conducted for the following eight factors:

1. Local Residential Street
2. Street is more than 800 feet long
3. Speed limit is 25 mph or lower
4. One lane in each direction
5. Not a truck or transit route
6. Grade is 5% or less
7. There is adequate vertical and horizontal alignment and sight distance
8. It is not the primary route for emergency vehicles

The requested street may not be eligible for speed humps if any one of the factors is not met. If the street meets the criteria, the requestor or the representative of the street will be advised to submit a petition from the abutting property owners or residents. A clear majority (65% or more) must be achieved prior to the commencement of a detailed engineering study. The detail engineering study will examine the following factors and requires 4 to 6 weeks to complete:

1. Typical daily traffic volume: Generally speed humps are installed on streets carrying 1,000 to 3,000 vehicles per day. Streets that carry less than 1,000 vehicles per day often serve only the local residents.
2. Prevailing travel speeds and the proportion of speeders
3. Speed-related traffic collisions
4. School zone (elementary or middle schools)
5. Pedestrian activities
6. Pedestrian protection (with or without sidewalks)
7. Bicycle routes
8. Potential impacts on nearby streets
9. Consensus building

If a street qualifies for speed humps installation upon the completion of the study, speed humps may be installed within three months. However, if a street is qualified for speed humps but there is a significant opposition from the surrounding residents, the City will explore a more comprehensive traffic calming strategy through the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP).

#### **CURRENT AND PENDING SPEED HUMPS REQUESTS CITYWIDE**

The City frequently receives requests for installation of speed hump throughout the City. Recently staff conducted an inventory on the status of current and pending speed hump requests (see Attachment 2). A total of 77 requests, dated as early as mid-1990s and as recent as April 2002, were retrieved. Out of the 77 cases, about 33 cases are still "open", and 25 were requested within the past 4 years. Cases are considered "open" if they have passed the preliminary field investigation and are in the process of/awaiting the collection of the required petition. As the City placed a focus on solving traffic issues by working more closely with residents in late 1990s, many of these requests were not actively pursued by residents or re-directed to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP). A good example of this is the Greenhill Road speed hump request.

In the past 24 months, a total of 19 speed humps were installed on 5 street segments:

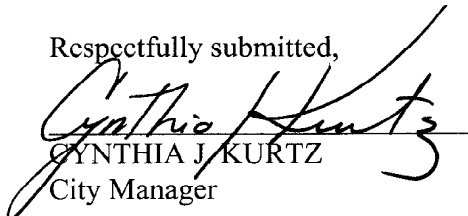
- Arden Road between California and Mentor: 3 humps
- Greenhill Road between Michillinda and Cliff: 8 humps
- South Mentor between California and Arden: 4 humps
- Catalina between California and Cornell: 3 humps
- South Cornell between Mentor and Catalina: 1 hump

According to the inventory, there are currently no "completed" applications waiting for speed hump installation. As mentioned previously, many eligible street segments may potentially become qualified if the requestors complete the required petitions for detail engineering studies. In the FY02-03 NTMP work plan, \$50,000 has been reserved for citywide speed humps installation. That is, the City can install speed humps on a particular street as soon as its entire process is completed.


### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The average cost of speed hump installation is about \$2,200 per hump (including labor, material, striping and signage). A maximum of 5 humps may be installed on Laguna Road at a total cost of \$11,000. Should the Council direct staff to install speed humps on Laguna Road, funds are available through the Capital Improvement Program – Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (8005-301-763100-75210). There would be no impact on the current scheduled NTMP areas.


Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment 1: Adopted Speed Humps Policies & Procedures  
Attachment 2: Pending Requests for Speed Humps Installation