



# Memorandum Engineering Division

January 20, 2021

**To:** Planning Commission  
**From:** Nestor Mangohig, Senior Civil Engineer - Traffic  
**Subject:** **Speed Cushions on Esplanade, 100 Block**  
**Copies:** Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director/City Engineer  
 Ziad Mazboudi, Deputy Public Works Director  
 Paul Ketcham, Orange County Sherriff's Department, Administrative Sergeant

## **ISSUE:**

**Should the Planning Commission forward a recommendation to the City Council to implement speed cushions on the 100 block of Esplanade?**

## **BACKGROUND:**

A petition was received in February 2020 requesting an evaluation for traffic calming on the 100 block of Esplanade. The petition cited high traffic volumes and speeds that often exceed the speed limit. Based on the City's traffic calming program, the street did not qualify to proceed with the general traffic calming process since it did not meet the minimum point score requirement. However, the data did indicate notable volume (2,274 vehicles per day) and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (30 miles per hour (mph)) on the street.

The City's more specific speed hump/cushion policy indicates that a street can move forward for Planning Commission recommendation after first following the initial traffic calming evaluation (above) if residents continue to be in favor of installation. Esplanade meets the basic criteria for speed cushion installation, with the exception that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is slightly lower than 32mph and that the street is considered a residential collector rather than a residential local. It should be noted that although Esplanade is classified as a residential collector rather than residential local, the street provides direct driveway access at a density similar to the other parallel streets in the area that are considered residential local. In general, Esplanade volumes are higher than other parallel residential local streets in the area.

When all basic speed cushion criteria are met, a street can move forward for recommendation if a majority (greater than 50%) are in favor of installation. If any criteria are not met, a street can still move forward for Planning Commission recommendation if at least 67% are in favor of installation. The City received a petition in September 2020 indicating that 39 of 43 parcels fronting the 100 block of

Esplanade are in favor of installing speed cushions. This response translates to 91% in favor of installation, exceeding the minimum 67% requirement. Based on discussion with the City's neighborhood contact, the remaining parcels that did not sign the petition for speed cushions were vacant or otherwise unable to be reached.

Specific locations have not been determined for speed cushion placement. Should the Planning Commission approve the use of speed cushions on the 100 block of Esplanade, staff will work with the neighborhood contact to gain resident concurrence on specific speed cushion locations prior to taking the item for City Council consideration. Locations will be based on general spacing and grade considerations, and the willingness of residents to have a treatment adjacent to their parcel.

If the Planning Commission moves the project forward for City Council consideration, staff will recommend that City Council appropriate required funds from the Traffic Calming budget.

Notices were distributed to parcels on and adjacent to the 100 block of Esplanade to inform that the subject would be considered at this meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT Planning Commission forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the use of speed cushion traffic calming treatments on the 100 block of Esplanade.

Attachments: 1. Vicinity Map

