**Harris County**

**Speed Table Program**



**What is a Speed Table?**

Speed tables are traffic calming devices similar to speed humps, speed bumps, speed cushions, and rumble strips that reinforce a safe speed along a residential street or road.

A speed table is generally a raised elongated traffic calming device made of rubber or asphalt that has a flat top which allows a vehicle’s front and rear tires to be on top of the table at the same time. Design requirements typically are: (see attached typical dimensions and design standards):

* Vertical height ranges from 3 to 4 inches.
* Horizontal length is a total of 22 feet long consisting of a 10 foot flat top, two 6 foot ramps on both sides, with a slope between 1:25 and 1:10.
* On two-way streets, speed tables are generally applied in both directions.
* Speed tables are designed to maintain positive stormwater drainage paths for roads with and without curb and gutter.
* In most applications, speed tables are installed within 200 feet or less from a street corner or a stop-controlled intersection to prevent motorist from approaching a speed control area at an excessive speed.
* Speed tables are typically installed in a series and spaced out approximately 200 to 500 feet apart to keep a vehicle’s operating speed between 25 and 30 mph.
* Speed tables are not installed on hills with a grade greater than 8%, or in curves with sight distance issues, or on primary emergency vehicle routes traveling to hospitals or other emergency medical facilities, or on primary routes to industrial sites with large volumes of heavy truck traffic, or on roads that are more than 50 feet in width.

This brochure serves to outline key points of the county’s speed table program and answer basic questions.

**How Does the Harris County Speed Table Program Work?**

Harris County will consider installing speed tables including ancillary traffic control devices such as signage and markings on existing county-maintained paved roads that are located within the unincorporated area of the county with or without curb and gutter with a posted maximum speed limit of 45 mph or less with at least 1,000 feet of uninterrupted length as a traffic calming measure. The county is authorized to install these devices on county-maintained roads in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-6-371.

Harris County recognizes that the installation of speed tables can be controversial and therefore uses a neighborhood driven approach that demonstrates that a majority of the impacted property owners support installing this type of traffic calming device.

Once the county receives a written complaint from a HOA or a group of property owners about speeding problems on a county-maintained paved road(s) that cannot be remedied by traditional law enforcement means or other traffic calming devices or traffic signs, county Public Works staff will perform an evaluation of the severity of the speeding problem by placing two traffic counters on the road(s) for at least two weeks to capture vehicular speed, volume, and directional data. To pass the evaluation and continue the process, the 85th percentile speed must be at least 10 mph greater than the posted speed limit. The 85th percentile speed is a speed at or below which 85% of people drive at a given location under good weather and visibility conditions. Based on that data, county staff can then determine the severity of the speeding problem and the appropriate remedy.

If warranted, a speed table design will be prepared for a specific location based on GDOT’s Pedestrian and Streetscape Guide, Section 4.2.9 (Speed Tables), the current standards of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and sent to the requesting designated community representative along with a formal county-prepared petition form. Before the petition drive begins, the community representative and county staff will meet to specifically delineate on a map the impacted road(s), the impacted property owners that have direct road frontage, and an estimated cost. It is up to the requesting community representative to obtain at least 80% of the impacted property owners’ signatures that own property on the road or in the subdivision (if applicable) to approve the speed table’s design, location(s), and installation. Each individual property owner(s) (no renters) that is listed on the property deed must sign the petition. By signing the petition, each signer indicates that they are legal owners of the impacted property, understands the speed table program, and agrees to the installation. The petition process allows the impacted property owners to make the decision if speed tables are the most appropriate tool to use for traffic calming.

Once at least 80% of the impacted property owners have signed the petition and those signatures have been verified by the county, the petition and the estimated cost of installation will be placed on the next available Board of Commissioners agenda for consideration. If the Board of Commissioners approve the speed table, construction will begin soon thereafter.

**Who Pays for the Speed Tables?**

The cost of the speed table installation is paid by the impacted property owners that own real property on the affected road(s) or in the affected subdivision. To recoup the county’s investment, all installation costs will be calculated and paid by the impacted property owners prior to construction. The impacted property owners, working through their designated community representative, will have 120 days after Board approval to pay the county for installation or the application will lapse and must be started again. Once the full amount is received by the county, construction will begin. The county will maintain the speed table in perpetuity.

**Speed Table Removal**

After the speed table has been installed for at least two years and a majority of the impacted residents, by petition, want to remove the traffic calming device, the impacted residents can petition the county to remove the device using the same process for installation. If the Board of Commissioners agree, the device will be removed at the expense of the impacted property owners and the removal expense paid in advance.

**For More Information**

For more information about Harris County’s Speed Table Program or to schedule a speed table study, use the contact information below:

Harris County Public Works Department

9982 SR 116

Hamilton, Georgia

706-628-5850

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