

**ORDINANCE No. 2011-106
CITY OF SHOREACRES, TEXAS**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC HUMPS; DEFINING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING MINIMUM TRAFFIC ENGINEERING CRITERIA AND DESIGN STANDARDS; AND, PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL DECISIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHOREACRES:

That if any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance; and,

That the Shoreacres City Code is hereby amended by adding sections to be numbered 62-75 through 62-82, which sections read as follows:

Sec. 62-75. Definitions.

- (a) *Primary route for emergency vehicles* refers to a route that is heavily used by police, fire, emergency services and other emergency response vehicles due to the proximity of the emergency vehicle facility.
- (b) *Speeds* are 85th percentile speeds as determined by a city-conducted or supervised traffic engineering study according to accepted traffic engineering practices.
- (c) *Street* refers to the street length that must be petitioned. It is a 400-foot segment generally centered on the proposed location of the hump(s), or the length of the block, whichever is greater. If the 400-foot segment extends into any part of an adjacent block, it includes the entire length of the adjacent block, unless separated by an intervening thoroughfare, traffic signal, stop sign or offset intersection.
- (d) *Traffic hump* is a geometric design feature of a roadway, consisting of a raised area in the roadway pavement surface extending transversely across the pavement, the primary purpose of which is to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling along that roadway.

Sec. 62-76. General Procedures.

This regulation presents the criteria for the request, placement and the operational characteristics necessary for the consideration of installation of traffic humps.

Sec. 62-77. Petitions.

The City will accept petitions for traffic hump installations once per year, from June 1 to June 30.

The petition must include the address of each person signing the petition.

The signature of only one adult member of each household will be counted on the petition.

By signing the petition, residents give advance approval to installation of traffic humps in front of their property, together with necessary signage and no parking requirements.

Sec. 62-78. Review of request.

- (a) To be considered valid, the petition must demonstrate support by a minimum of two-thirds of the households on the street.
- (b) If the petition is determined to be valid, the following actions shall be conducted:
 - (1) The street will be evaluated to determine compliance with street operation characteristics, contained in Sec 62-80.
 - (2) A traffic engineering study will be conducted for a minimum of 30 days to determine the traffic volumes and 85th percentile speed.
 - (3) Comments will be solicited from other agencies which may be impacted by the proposed traffic humps. Such agencies may include, but are not limited to the Shoreacres Police Department, Shoreacres Public Works Department, and La Porte ISD.

Sec. 62-79. Installation of Traffic Humps.

- (a) The City will further define the street or portion of the street, the estimated number of traffic humps necessary and the approximate locations.
- (b) The city will provide written notice to residents informing them that traffic humps are being proposed on their street.
- (c) Residents on the street under consideration for the installation of traffic humps will be given the option to “opt out.” By “opting out,” residents give notice that they do not agree to the installation of traffic humps in front of their property, together with necessary signage and “no parking” requirements.
- (d) Traffic humps must be installed in accordance with Placement Criteria specified in Section 62-81.
- (e) The installation of traffic humps must be approved by the City Council.
- (f) The City Council must hold at least one public hearing prior to adopting the placement of traffic humps.
- (g) Notification of a public hearing on the placement of traffic humps shall be mailed to residents within a half/mile radius of the proposed street(s) except for traffic humps at parks which will require notification of all residents of the City.
- (h) After approval by the City Council, traffic humps will be installed as permitted by the available budget. Should funds not be available, the installation will be placed on a list for up to three years.

Sec. 62-80. Operational Street Characteristics Review Criteria.

- (a) Traffic humps shall only be considered on streets where the following characteristics are present:

- (1) The street must be used to provide access to abutting low-density residential properties (local residential street) and/or to collect traffic for such streets (residential collector).
- (2) There must be no more than one moving lane of traffic in each direction.
- (3) Traffic volumes must be less than 3,000 vehicles per day.
- (4) The street must have a posted or prima facie speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less, as determined in accordance with state law.
- (5) The 85th percentile vehicle speeds must equal or exceed the speed criteria of 35 miles per hour unless the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour, in which case the 85th percentile vehicle speeds equal or exceed the speed criteria of 25 miles per hour.
- (6) The street must not be an identified primary route for emergency vehicles. These routes are subject to change.
- (7) The street must have adequate sight distances to safely accommodate the placement of the traffic hump.

Sec. 62-81. Placement and Signage Criteria.

- (a) Traffic humps may be located in front of residences that have signed the petition.
- (b) Traffic humps will not be placed in front of residences that have submitted a written request to be excluded from traffic humps.
- (c) Traffic humps will normally be placed between 200 and 600 feet apart. Other spacing may be used based upon engineering judgment.
- (d) Traffic humps should not be placed within 6 feet of a driveway
- (e) Traffic humps shall not be placed within a curved section of roadway
- (f) Traffic humps shall not be located in front of a driveway or within 100 feet of an intersection.
- (g) Traffic humps shall not be located over, or contain, manholes or storm sewer inlets or be located adjacent to fire hydrants. For humps located near drainage inlets the hump should be placed just downstream of the inlet.
- (h) Placement of "no parking" signs within 50 feet of traffic humps may be necessary to ensure that warning signs are visible.
- (i) Subsequent occupants of homes where traffic humps have been placed may not request their removal, except as outlined in section 62-84 of this article.

Sec. 62-82. Denied Requests, Traffic Hump Removal, Alteration and Reassessment.

- (a) If the street is determined to be not eligible or does not meet the criteria, petitioners will be notified in writing of the decision, stating the reason for denial.
- (b) The City Council may authorize removal or alteration of traffic humps. With the exceptions stated herein, the process for traffic hump removal or alteration by residents is the same process for installation.

- (c) A petition to remove a traffic hump may not be submitted within one year of the installation.
- (d) The City may initiate removal or alteration of traffic humps with final approval by the city council.
- (e) The city staff will reassess this article on an annual basis for three years from the effective date of adoption of this article. The first reassessment is due one year after the installation of the first traffic hump under the provisions of this article.

The City Council officially finds, determines, recites, and declares that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of this meeting of the City Council was posted at a place convenient to the public at the City Hall of the City for the time required by law preceding this meeting, as required by the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code; and that this meeting has been open to the public as required by law at all times during which this ordinance and the subject matter thereof has been discussed, considered and formally acted upon. The City Council further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

The City Secretary is hereby directed to provide each full-time employee of the City with written notice of this amendment to the City's Personnel Policy.

This Ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and approval, and it is so ordered.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the _____ day of _____ 2011.

(CITY SEAL)

Dolly Arons, Mayor

ATTEST:

David K. Stall
City Secretary