



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: March 9, 2012

To: Amy Wolff, Durham City County Planning Department
From: Bill Judge P.E., City of Durham Department of Transportation
Subject: Newsome Street Traffic Calming Request (Z1100030)

On February 29, 2012 our office was contacted by a representative of the applicant for Live Well North Durham (Z1100030). The representative indicated they were exploring potential options to assist neighbors in resolving their concerns about traffic on Newsome Street. In accordance with the City's Speed Hump Policy, we utilize the observed 85th percentile speeds to determine the extent of any speeding problem on a roadway. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which the 85th percentile of the vehicles are traveling. For residential roadways with a 25 mph speed limit such as Newsome Street, the 85th percentile speed must be equal to or greater than 31 mph to qualify for consideration of traffic calming measures under the City's Speed Hump Policy.

The City of Durham installed two speed humps on Newsome Street in 2005. In 2004 (prior to speed hump installation), the observed 85th percentile speed for Newsome Street was 36.9 mph. In evaluating a four-way stop request, our office collected additional speed and volume data along Newsom Street in January 2012. The observed 85th percentile speed in January 2012 (with the two speed humps) was 28.1 mph. Based on this before and after data, the speed humps are effective at reducing the observed 85th percentile speed from 36.9 mph to 28.1 mph, or a reduction of 8.8 mph.

Under the City's Speed Hump Policy, the street does not qualify for additional speed humps as the observed 85th percentile speed is now below the minimum requirement of 31 mph for speed humps. Additionally, four-way stops on Newsome Street at Crabtree Avenue and Pendergrass Street are not warranted based on the speed, volume, and accident history. Newsome Street does not currently meet the City's minimum criteria for additional traffic calming devices. However, if conditions change, residents may contact our office again for additional evaluation.