



PARKING & TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 4, 2022
TO: The Parking & Traffic Commission
FROM: Lee and Valerie Shuemake
SUBJECT: Morningstar Dr. Radar and Speedbumps

RECOMMENDATION

Consideration of request from Lee and Valerie Shuemake to survey Morningstar Drive so that radar can be used by the Sonora Police Department and the implementation of speedbumps.

DISCUSSION

On February 8, 2022, Lee and Valerie Shuemake stated:

"We live in the Morningstar neighborhood where there is excessive speeding. Continuously, we have spoken with the Sonora Police Department, and they have instructed us to contact you, the City of Sonora, to discuss the following items:

- 1. Survey road so radar can be used by SPD.*
- 2. Speedbumps*

The speeding is a serious safety concern and a significant quality of life issue."

This item was brought before the City Administrator by email in November of 2021, and below is the Gerald Fuccillo's, the City Engineer's, perspective on the request.

"...I have reviewed the below emails and would like to give you my thoughts on the Morning Star Drive Safety Issue. I would not recommend the placement of speed bumps on Morning Star Drive for the following reasons:

- 1. Speed bumps should only be used in private roads and parking lots where the desired speeds are less than 15 MPH.*
- 2. Morning Star Drive is a public residential collector street with a speed limit of 25 mph. It would not be possible for the PD to enforce a speed limit of less than 25 mph under the Vehicle Code on this street without a specific warrant study for a safety hazard.*
- 3. The placement of speed bumps on Morning Star Drive could potentially create a greater safety hazard than presently exists for vehicular, motorcycle and bicycle accidents along with associated liability for the City.*
- 4. The placement of speed bumps would increase traffic noise complaints especially at night in the area of the speed bumps.*
- 5. Speed bumps can also create damage and delay to emergency and larger vehicles. Morning Star Drive is a two-lane residential collector street 32' in width, with sidewalk and parking one-side. It was originally required to connect the downtown to Greenley Road in order to take traffic off of Lyons Street. Restriction of traffic on Morning Star Drive would just add traffic to Lyons Street where we have a similar speed problem.*

In years past when this same issue has come up, the City increased enforcement, added the 3 way Stop signs at Morning Star Court, and added special "Slow Down, Residential Area " signs at both approaches to the residential area. Perhaps we should try increased enforcement again along with more slow down signs before we create a traffic hazard with the speed bumps.

Maybe a solar flasher light on the slow down sign might help getting the drivers attention. We do have a similar speed problem on other residential streets..."

The City Engineer still does not currently recommend speed bumps for the reasons stated above and for the safety issue created, as well as the noise in the area. The residential section of Morning Star Drive, as presently signed, qualifies as a Residential District under the Vehicle Code, and 25 MPH can be enforced. If one were to do a Radar Speed Study of Morning Star Drive, the speed limit would likely increase to 35 MPH. Increasing the amount of "Slow Down, Residential Area" signs is the alternative recommendation in addition to public notification of enforcement of the current 25 MPH speed zone.

FISCAL IMPACT

Public Work's assessment of cost was approximately \$500 for six tons of asphalt, \$1600 for labor, \$100 for paint, and \$1,200 for signs, amounting to \$3,400.

ATTACHMENTS

- Parking & Traffic Commission Request 1