

Moraga Road Bumps Land Council in Special Meeting

By Steve Angelides



School's Open, Watch Your Speed (especially on Camino Pablo)

Supporters call them raised crosswalks. Opponents call them speed bumps. Technically they're called speed tables. The signs in the road simply say, "Bump." Whatever they're called, the three large bumps that appeared on Camino Pablo last month as part of the paving project are so controversial that they have prompted a special Town Council meeting on Wednesday September 5.

Town Manager Phil Vince said the Town has received about three dozen calls and e-mails which have been evenly divided. Town Engineer Jill Mercurio said supporters include parents and school officials and opponents include residents without children in the schools.

The Town's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reviewed the paving plans in March and April and decided that the school crosswalks on the road should be "slightly raised to increase visibility and differentiate them from the roadway." The bumps are designed to slow traffic to 15 mph or less.

Mercurio said the Town Council never discussed or approved the bumps because that was not required at the time. Council approval for such measures would be required in the future under the Town's draft traffic calming plan, Mercurio added.

The leading opponent of the bumps is Lee Bren, an area resident who was first runner-up in the 2004 Town Council election. Bren said he passed out 350 flyers asking residents to e-mail the Town. "I've been a one-man wrecking ball the past two weeks," Bren said.

Bren said he decided to take action after he saw a vehicle become airborne, lose control, and almost slam into a curb in front of a school after going over one of the bumps at the posted speed limit of 35 mph. Bren said he also saw a vehicle with the left tire torn off and that the oil pan of another vehicle was ripped off.

Vince explained that at the special meeting the Council would consider removing the bumps, smoothing them out to speed up traffic, or leaving them as they are for a few months. Bren is pleased about the meeting and plans to pass out flyers about it.

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