

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

September 24, 2002

Committee  
Report No.

02-134

Honorable Chair and Members  
of the County Council  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works and Transportation Committee, having met on June 19, 2002 and September 4, 2002, makes reference to the following:

1. County Communication No. 01-211, from your Committee Chair, transmitting correspondence from the West Maui Taxpayers Association, requesting the installation of rumble strips as traffic calming devices; and
2. County Communication No. 01-237, from the Director of Public Works and Waste Management, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 18, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO SUBDIVISIONS".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to require street design within residential subdivisions to incorporate traffic calming devices.

By correspondence dated June 19, 2002, the Executive Director, Safe Community of Maui, Inc., provided comments in support of the proposed bill.

At its meeting of June 19, 2002, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from one individual. He expressed his support for the proposed bill and stated that incorporating traffic calming devices into the initial design of residential subdivisions is good urban planning.

The Director provided your Committee with a presentation outlining various samples of traffic calming devices that can be incorporated into subdivision designs. The Director noted that typically traffic calming devices such as speed humps and rumble strips are installed after the subdivisions are

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completed, resulting in costs to the County for such improvements. The Director noted that by requiring proposed subdivisions to incorporate the design of traffic calming devices into the project, the County will realize a cost savings and new residential subdivisions will be built with safer streets. He also submitted various examples of traffic calming devices and street designs that are aesthetically pleasing and functional to slow traffic. He stated that by mandating traffic calming devices into design standards, architects and engineers might be more creative about incorporating such safety devices into the initial development of the project. The proposed bill may also eliminate the need for speed humps, private streets or gated communities.

Your Committee noted concerns about whether certain street designs, which include traffic calming elements, would impact emergency response vehicles and services. Your Committee further noted concerns regarding impacts to parking and the potential for increase liability.

Your Committee expressed a desire to create a demonstration project that would highlight a traffic calming design such as a roundabout, choker, chicanes or mini-traffic circles. Your Committee also stated that traffic impact studies should review all regions of the County of Maui to help incorporate traffic calming devices into County road designs and enhancements.

Your Committee requested that:

1. The Department of the Corporation Counsel provide a legal opinion relating to the potential for increased liability by abandoning the existing traffic calming elements, such as speed humps, for the recommendations outlined in the proposed bill;
2. The Departments of Police, Fire Control, Water Supply and American Medical Response (ambulance service), review the proposed bill and submit recommendations or comments;
3. The Department of Public Works and Waste Management provide recommendations on County roadways that may be utilized for a pilot project to install traffic calming devices or elements; and

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4. Information regarding any traffic impact studies being conducted for the County of Maui.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated June 30, 2002, the Chief of Police indicated that traffic calming devices is a very effective tool to control the speed of vehicles and can help to enhance life in communities by creating a safe environment.

By correspondence dated July 1, 2002, the Fire Chief recommended that all traffic-calming elements maintain minimum rights-of-way and pavement widths as stated in Section 10.207 of the UFC 1988 edition.

By correspondence dated July 3, 2002, your Committee Chair transmitted a contract for professional services and a request for proposal for developing a transportation planning model for assessing traffic impact fees for the island of Maui.

By correspondence dated July 24, 2002, the Director of Public Works and Waste Management recommended that Kulanihakoi Road and Keonekai Road be considered as candidates for a demonstration traffic-calming project. He also provided an estimate of \$250,000 for the design and construction of the project.

At its meeting of September 4, 2002, in Kihei, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; a Deputy Fire Chief; a Lieutenant from District 6 Kihei, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from two individuals. One testifier stated that roundabouts are not pedestrian friendly. They are designed to keep traffic flowing and are not designed to stop traffic to allow pedestrians to cross streets. The other testifier recommended that rumble strips be installed on highways and County roadways for safety purposes and to prevent accidents.

The Director provided your Committee with an overview of the matter. He stated that the proposed bill will affect new residential development. He

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recommended that the proposed bill be revised to exempt subdivisions that have received preliminary approval within a specific period.

The Lieutenant stated that the Department is supportive of the proposed bill. He further stated that the traffic calming devices will assist in slowing vehicle traffic, which will greatly assist in enforcement of speed limit regulations.

Your Committee noted that certain examples of traffic calming devices outlined in the proposed bill should be defined. Your Committee also concurred with the proposed revision to the proposed bill recommended by the Director to exempt subdivisions that have received preliminary approval within a specific period.

Your Committee requested that the proposed bill be revised as follows:

1. Define traffic calming elements listed in the proposed bill.
2. Add a provision that allows subdivisions that have received preliminary approval prior to the effective date of the ordinance, but not prior to January 1, 2000 to be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance. However, exempted subdivisions that have not received final approval by January 1, 2005 will no longer be exempt.

Your Committee also agreed to allow the Director to determine further revisions to the proposed bill.

Your Committee voted to recommend passage of the revised proposed bill on first reading, and filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised bill incorporating your Committee's suggested revisions, as well as the following revisions proposed by the Director:

1. Add appropriate language that would refer to an acceptable definition for traffic calming elements indicated in the proposed bill. Recommended language could be added at the end of Section

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18.20.105 to read: "...as incorporated in County standard details adopted by the department."

2. In Section 18.20.105, line 13, delete the word "or".
3. In Section 18.20.105, line 15, add the word, "Florida" before or after the word "county".
4. In Section 18.20.105, line 17, replace the first word "Other" with the word "All".

Your Public Works and Transportation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 18, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO SUBDIVISIONS", PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT;
2. That County Communication No. 01-211 be FILED; and
3. That County Communication No. 01-237 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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