

City of Thomaston

Office of the Mayor

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Dear Citizen:

Historically the City of Thomaston has installed speed bumps on the basis of requests from individuals for such service without consideration to utilizing accepted standards or other options to address the problems associated with traffic and/or speed control. Some of the devices used are prefabricated and are intended to be used on a temporary basis. However, others in the City are constructed of more rigid material such as concrete or asphalt.

The City has learned from Georgia Department of Transportation Officials that specific standards exist for the installation of traffic and speed control devices such as speed bumps and speed humps and that the City has not complied with the standards recommended by the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. These accepted standards also apply to signage, traffic signals, stop signs, etc..

Failure to utilize proper standards for installation and use of traffic control devices, such as speed bumps, possibly could expose the City to liability and, in the case of state funding for street and road repair, make the City ineligible for state funding assistance on streets and roads where such devices are placed.

As a result of these very serious issues, the City will immediately begin removing the devices considered to be temporary, prefabricated speed bumps and will be initiating a program consistent with traffic control standards for requesting, installing and removing all such devices within the City.

We realize that there is a perception that these devices are effective in controlling traffic related problems on City streets and, with appropriate use, they do. However, improper utilization of these devices may actually contribute to unanticipated problems such as increased repairs to automobiles, accidents, impediments to emergency vehicles, etc.

While removing all prefabricated speed bumps from the City we will simultaneously implement alternative measures to insure that our citizens are reasonably protected from various traffic violations and the Police Department will be actively involved in controlling these situations. Moreover, we will be simultaneously developing standard policies for use of both temporary and permanent devices so that the City's possible risk exposure is minimized and eligibility for state funding is maximized.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin this process.

Sincerely,



Billy Beckett
Interim City Manager

