

February 20, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202500263

Subject: Mt. Airy Traffic Calming

Reference Document #202402232

The Council at its session on November 20, 2024 referred the following item for review and report.

MOTION, dated 10/21/2024, submitted by Councilmember Johnson and Vice Mayor Kearney, WE MOVE that The City (DOTE) looks into street calamity measures in Mt. Airy, specifically the blocks: 2200-2400 of West North Bend Road. We also move that a report of street-calming measures be provided after 60 days.

In recent years the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) has made several improvements to West North Bend Rd between Belmont Avenue and Van Leunen Drive. In 2018 a High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST) was applied to the pavement in the curve near Kiplington Drive. The treatment helps vehicle tires grip the pavement during wet weather. Since the treatment was installed crashes have dropped from an average of 7 per year to 3.5 per year. Prior to the installation, 43% of crashes occurred during wet weather. Since the installation only 18% have occurred during wet weather.

In 2022, DOTE worked with Duke Energy to install an additional streetlight and convert two existing lights to LED near Kiplington Drive. Current data shows that the additional lighting has reduced the number of crashes that occur here in non-daylight hours.

DOTE also assessed the curve warning roadway signage in the area and determined that the signage is sufficient and in good condition. No other improvements are recommended at this time.

DOTE understands that speeding is a concern for many residents throughout the city. And while numerous requests for traffic calming are received each year, the program funding is limited. Therefore, DOTE has developed a competitive program that considers crash data, speed data, equity, and other factors to determine which streets are most at risk for speed related crashes and pedestrian crashes.

Every community council has the option to submit two streets for consideration through the program each budget cycle. The Mt. Airy Town Council has submitted West North Bend Road to DOTE as one of their priority traffic calming requests for 2026. Data will be collected this spring for all streets submitted by community councils. All submitted streets will be scored and ranked based on the data and DOTE will fund as many projects as possible starting with the most at-risk streets.

cc: John Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager

Greg Long, Interim Director, Transportation and Engineering