Traffic Calming Project Report

Volant Drive from Spring Forest Rd to Falls Church Rd



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1) Project Overview and Existing Conditions

Project Overview:

The Volant Drive traffic calming project focuses on addressing the identified speeding and speed related crash issues identified through engineering evaluations along the street.

Volant Dr was prioritized as #13 out of the highest-ranking propriety traffic calming projects that meet warrants for action. This priority list was presented to City Council with the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program's Annual Report and approved to begin design and engagement work at the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting.

Existing Conditions:

- 85th Percentile Speed: 35 mph in the 25 mph zone
    - This is the speed at which 85% of drivers are going at or under.
- Volume: 945 average daily vehicle trips
- Crashes: 1 speed related crash in the previous 3 years

2) Desired Outcomes

The goal of this project is to slow drivers down to approximately the speed limit and work to eliminate/minimize future speed related crashes. This will be measured with an after-study to be performed approximately 6 – 9 months after the project's completion.

Staff will define the project as successful if the 85th percentile speed of the street is within 3 mph of the posted speed limit and secondarily a 95th percentile speed of the street within 8 mph of the posted speed limit.

A second after-study will be performed approximately 3 years after the project has been completed to compare crash rates along the street to measure if speed related crashes have decreased.

3) Project Timeline & Engagement

City Council Approval for Design/Engagement: May 5, 2026

Touchpoint 1 – Learn & React: September 14, 2026 – October 2, 2026

- Views: 500
- Participants: 100
- Responses: 228
- Comments: 85

Touchpoint 2 – Review: October 12, 2026 – October 30, 2026

- Views: 190
- Participants: 8
- Responses: 28
- Comments: 7

Touchpoint 3 – View Final Design: November 9, 2026

Construction: Construction bidding spring 2028

4) Touchpoint 1: Preliminary Layout & Feature Options and Resident Feedback

Preliminary Layout:



The preliminary layout recommended 6 vertical devices along the street spaced at approximately 500' intervals.

Resident Feedback:

Overall, public sentiment shows a community that is highly engaged, with strong concerns about both speeding hazards and the impact of traffic-calming devices on daily life. Safety is widely acknowledged as important, but opinions differ on how to achieve it. Residents request balanced solutions that protect pedestrians without overly burdening drivers or emergency responders.

Residents voted 69% for speed cushions.

Updated Design Considerations:

Staff is recommending removing one of the proposed device locations and shifting the remaining device locations based on resident feedback and further review. Staff is also recommending Speed Cushions be the device that advances. Speed Cushions meet the core needs of the neighborhood conversation as they work to slow drivers down effectively and minimize emergency response impacts.

5) Touchpoint 2: Advanced Layout & Feature Selection and Resident Feedback

Revised Layout:



The revised layout reduces the number of vertical devices to five, spaced at approximately 750-foot intervals along the street. The updated placement incorporates resident feedback requesting a device closer to the community clubhouse and adjustments to bring devices closer to the Spring Forest Road intersection. The revised layout accommodates these requests while maintaining appropriate spacing between devices. Speed cushions are recommended as the preferred device based on the street context and resident feedback.

Resident Feedback:

Residents generally expressed strong support for the proposed traffic calming improvements on Volant Drive, particularly the installation of speed cushions to help reduce vehicle speeds and enhance pedestrian and neighborhood safety. Several residents shared concerns about speeding traffic, noting difficulties with safely backing out onto the roadway, navigating the assisted living community, and the need for measures to improve overall safety. Community members also provided feedback on speed cushion spacing, with some discussing preferred device placement and others raising questions about potential impacts on emergency response vehicles. One resident expressed concern with the survey process and the broader use of speed bumps throughout the city. Overall, the community response was largely positive, with residents viewing the project as a beneficial step toward improving safety while offering suggestions to help balance traffic calming goals with roadway operations and emergency access.

Updated Design Considerations:

Staff is not recommending any modifications to the proposed traffic calming measures based on the comments received. Concerns raised regarding nearby intersection operations and other unrelated traffic issues are outside the scope of this traffic calming project and are being reviewed separately by the appropriate staff through independent processes. As such, no changes to the proposed device locations or quantities are recommended at this time.

6) Touchpoint 3: Final Design and Design Recommendations

Final Design Recommendations:



Staff is recommending five vertical traffic calming devices along the street, spaced at approximately 750-foot intervals. The updated placement incorporates resident feedback requesting a device closer to the community clubhouse and adjustments to position devices nearer to the Spring Forest Road intersection. The revised layout accommodates these requests while maintaining appropriate spacing between devices to provide consistent speed management along the corridor. Based on the street context and resident input, speed cushions are recommended as the preferred traffic calming device for this location.

General Sentiment Breakdown and how engagement informed the design:

First round of engagement found general project sentiment:

- Positive: ~38%
- Neutral: ~37%
- Negative: ~25%

Second round of engagement found general project sentiment:

- Positive: ~83%
- Neutral: ~0%
- Negative: ~17%

Staff's continued conversations with the residents in this area have worked to research resident suggestions and have revised the design where available to meet the general sentiments and desires of those residents engaging in the design process. This continued engagement and conversation have resulted in a positive shift between the first and second round resident engagement in overall sentiment and positivity surrounding this project offering.