



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer, staff representative for the Traffic Operations Committee

DATE: September 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Referral: Request for sidewalk and traffic calming measures on Broken Ground Drive

Recommendation

Accept this report submitted by the Transportation Engineer on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee in response to a referral from City Council regarding communication from Councilor Foote with a resident request for sidewalk and traffic calming measures on Broken Ground Drive.

Background

On August 12, 2024, City Council forwarded to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) a referral from City Council regarding communication from Councilor Foote with a resident request for sidewalk and traffic calming on Broken Ground Drive.

Broken Ground Drive is a local street with a posted speed limit of 25 mph. It connects East Side Drive with Portsmouth Street. The speed limit was reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph by Ordinance dated March 21, 2005.

In 2008, the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) discussed a similar request for traffic calming measures on Broken Ground Drive. It was determined that Broken Ground Drive is designated as a Primary Emergency Response Route. As such, the use of speed bumps or vertical deflection on Broken Ground Drive was deemed not appropriate per the City's Traffic Management Policy.

Discussion

TOC discussed the recent referral at the August 20, 2024 meeting. The Committee recognized prior Committee discussions regarding traffic calming measures, and also discussed the noise that speed bumps would bring to the residential neighborhood.

Speeds

TOC reviewed prior data and speed data summarized during the month of May 2024 for Broken Ground Drive, as follows:

Direction	Avg (mph)	85th (mph)
Northbound	28	32
Southbound	29	33

85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers travel on a road segment.

Avg = Average speed

mph = miles per hour

The Committee concurred that given the collected speeds that the Police Department will deploy their speed trailer on Broken Ground Drive during the week of September 23rd to help remind motorists of the speed limit.

Sidewalk

TOC recognized the sidewalk segment on Broken Ground Drive, between East Side Drive and Portsmouth Street, is in close proximity to the Broken Ground and Mill Brook elementary schools on South Curtisville Road, but acknowledged that it is ranked #54 out of 117 in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan. The 2021 ranking effort evaluated locations based on criteria including safety, school proximity, new access, latent demand, connectivity, and existing demand.

The Committee also discussed prior Planning Board action in 1977 related to the sidewalk during the subdivision of the neighborhood. As a condition of subdivision approval, the deeds for each of the properties on Broken Ground Drive state that lot owners within the subdivision would bear a minimum of 50% of the cost of a sidewalk should they ever petition the City for one.

It was discussed that at this time, this sidewalk segment is not indicated as a "priority" segment and would typically be considered for construction when the street is reconstructed (not yet programmed in upcoming years).

The Committee did not recommend sidewalk construction outside of the paving program or the introduction of speed bumps at this time. The roadway was last overlaid with new pavement in 2020 and is currently under an excavation moratorium.

cc: Traffic Operations Committee