

Community Meeting Minutes – 27 October 2011:

It went well and FCDOT extends their appreciation for the calm and orderly meeting. The moderator and the police presence as well as the venue were calming influences along with a well prepared Task Force. Thank you!

Based on the sign up sheet, there were 40 people who came. Although, I saw a few people who came but did not sign in so the number is slightly higher, 50 perhaps.

We heard many who were for the speed table proposal. Special thanks to quite a few of our neighbors who stood up to state why the tables are needed in this community. One courageous and brave 3rd grader, Ms. Jasmine Moalem, spoke up about the difficulties and danger the children as well as Ms. Perry, the crossing guard, face when stopping motorists so they can cross the street. I uploaded the video of one of our neighbors taking a video of their daughter's first day of kindergarten which captured the daily dangers of motorists ignoring the crossing guard's whistle, stop sign and sometimes, screams for them to stop for kids crossing to get to school.

Some of the objections were as follows:

1) I don't agree with the speed table on Country Club.

Answers from FCDOT and Task Force - All of them have a purpose and all are crucial to slowing down speeding on OCR. This particular one will slow down traffic approaching from Reston before it reaches the hill on Country Club and OCR intersection of OCR. It is a very dangerous hill because of the sight distance issue. If you are sitting on Country Club drive to make a turn either way, you can not see who is coming at higher speed coming from the west. In addition, houses along this section of the road have a sight distance issue; they can not see cars coming from Tysons because of the hill. The tables will slow the approach of vehicles from either side.

2) Cars will cut through the streets intersecting OCR to avoid the speed tables.

Answers from FCDOT and Task Force - First, 80% cutting through this community is non-resident, mostly coming from the west like Reston, Herndon, Sterling, Ashburn etc. They are cutting through to pursue the most direct, quickest way/route to head home. If you look at the map of our community, cutting through to Pine Valley to Higdon to Irvin will add more than 15mins to the trip maneuvering around the community because of its length as well as other traffic controls such as 2/3 stop signs. On the other side of the road, cutting through is also a task and can be costly.

3) They will create a back-up.

Answers from FCDOT and Task Force -

Speed Tables are not intended to cause back-ups as they are designed to allow traffic to flow over them at the posted speed limit. They are different from stop lights and all-way stops as these devices are used for traffic control from a minor to a major highway. According to the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE), "Traffic Calming is the combination of mainly physical

measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users." In essence, traffic calming is an approach that communities can undertake in neighborhoods to:

- *Slow down motor vehicle traffic.

- *Reduce the frequency and severity of crashes.

- *Increase both the actual safety and the perception of safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- *Reduce the need for police enforcement.

- *Enhance the street environment.

- *Increase access for all modes of transportation (especially bicyclists and pedestrians).

- *Reduce cut-through motor vehicle traffic.

4) Some people have bad backs, tables can hurt while going on them.

Answers form FCDOT and Task Force - this is a new one, but coming from someone who has been rear-ended 3 times while my vehicle is stopped at either a stop sign or stop light, as a result, a 6mons physical therapy, I do not have problems with the ones on the 300block of OCR.

5) I wish we knew more about it.

Answers form FCDOT and Task Force - This has been ongoing since 2005 – information has been posted on the website with active Task Force members who went door to door as well as listing information on listserv and various email notifications over the past years, 7 Community Meetings.

Please pass this along to your neighbors. Information will be loaded to the website at www.OCRVA.com for people who missed the meeting.