

MIDDLETOWN

Contract for speed humps approved

The traffic-calming measures include 10 speed humps and a flashing light in front of an elementary school.

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

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Traffic-calming measures approved by the township supervisors should cut down on the speed and volume of vehicles passing through, residents on two Middletown streets are hoping.

The supervisors approved a \$48,866 contract with a company called Traffic Logix at last Tuesday's meeting to supply 10 speed humps. They will be installed by the township's public works department sometime in the next few weeks, said assistant township Manager Frank Farry.

Not to be confused with speed bumps, the humps create more gradual elevations in a road that force motorists to slow down or risk damaging the undersides of their vehicles. Five of the speed humps will be installed on Terrace Road and five on Twin Oaks Drive, both in the Twin Oaks section of Levittown in Middletown.

As part of the total traffic-calming package for the two streets, the township will soon go out to bid on a flashing signal to be installed in front of Pearl Buck Elementary School on Terrace Road, said Farry. The public works department must also rent some special equipment to install the speed humps, he added.

Farry estimated all the traffic calming costs for the two streets at about \$76,000. He expects all the work to be done by the end of the year.

More than 60 percent of residents on Terrace Road and Twin Oaks Drive who responded to a township poll indicated they favored the traffic-calming measures.

"It's a good idea," said Terrace Road resident Brian Kelly. "Most of the drivers coming through here are pretty good, but some of them just fly through here and it's dangerous with kids playing near the street and everything else. This should deter them."

Not everyone agreed.

"I don't care for them," said Terrace Road resident Michelle Gilardi, referring to the speed humps. "I think people just slow down as they approach them, but then just speed up a lot until they get to the next one. I didn't think the cut-through traffic was that bad. This might make people avoid these streets but that will just make the problem worse on other streets."

Farry said traffic-calming measures have worked well on three other Middletown streets, North and South Hawthorne Avenues and Clearview Avenue.

"Our traffic engineer Brian Keaveney did some follow-up study and found a significant reduction in speed and a slight reduction in volume," said Farry.