



Villagers get vocal on speed humps



Tribune photo by SCOTT ISKOWITZ

Cars slow down to drive over the [speed humps](#) along Casey Road in Carrollwood Village.

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CARROLLWOOD --Residents of Carrollwood Village hope they are one [step](#) closer to a solution to their traffic-calming issues after a meeting July 30 with an arbitrator.

Ninety residents signed up to speak at a meeting to discuss whether to keep traffic-calming devices in the neighborhood. For months residents have argued over the speed humps, signs and other devices installed on local roads.

Some want them removed, saying they cause more harm than help. Others say the devices are needed to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic.

County leaders ultimately decided to put the issue in the hands of an independent arbitrator. The county hired IBI Group to act as arbitrator. The firm specializes in city designs.

Residents were given three minutes each to speak to the issue. The auditorium at the Carrollwood Cultural Center was so crowded that at one point people were kept from entering the room because of fire codes and had to wait until other residents left and spots opened up.

For 2 1/2 hours, residents expressed their opinions on the issue. About half spoke against the traffic-calming measure, a quarter were in favor of them and a quarter never took their turn to speak.

Many of the supporters live along Old Orchard Road, a road often used for cut-through traffic off busy Casey Road.

"The speed humps have definitely reduced volume and speed," said resident Diane Melendez. "How can you justify their removal when they are working?"

Ken Caldwell said the humps have reduced cut-through traffic and made it safer for pedestrians.

"In today's [budgeting](#) world when you are cutting programs, how can you possibly think about spending money to take them out?" he asked.

But many opponents say the speed humps bring extra noise to the neighborhood and damage to cars, especially on Casey Road.

"It's a living hell," said Deborah Armstrong, who has a house that backs up to Casey Road. "It's a constant barrage of scraping cars and engines revving over the humps. It's like a demolition ball that swings nonstop."

Julia Palmer dressed like Uncle Sam and carried a sign that read "Dump the Humps."

"I wore this because we broke free from England because we were against taxation without representation," she said. "And we've not had representation in this matter."

All of the comments were recorded and the arbitrators are expected to report a decision to the commission Sept. 16.

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