

Public Safety Committee Meeting

July 13, 2026

Members Present: Committee Chairman, Jim Engelman, Richard Blevins, Ann Smith, and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Jonathan Greer, Chief of Police, Brandon Nelson, and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Chairman Jim Engelman called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at approximately 3:00pm.

Huss Avenue Speed Study:

Jim stated that the Board received a complaint at the April Board Meeting about speeding on Huss Avenue, and a speed study was done by the Police Department as a result of that complaint. Jim recognized Police Chief, Brandon Nelson, to present the results of the speed study.

Chief Nelson presented the following information.

The purpose of this proposal is to recommend reducing the posted speed limit on Huss Ave from the current 25 MPH to 15 MPH in an effort to improve public safety for motorists, pedestrians, and nearby residents.

Background

During the Town Board meeting in April 2026, concerns were raised by a resident of Huss Ave. regarding the speed of vehicles traveling on their street. In response to those concerns, the Hudson Police Department conducted a traffic speed study between April 22, 2026, and April 30, 2026, to evaluate traffic volume and vehicle speeds. The results of the speed study were as follows:

The speed study recorded 4,122 vehicles traveling on Huss Ave during the study period.

Speed	Number of Vehicles	Percentage
0–19 MPH	1,040	25.2%
20–25 MPH	1,602	38.9%
25–29 MPH	1,183	28.7%
30–35 MPH	253	6.1%
35–39 MPH	42	1.0%
40–44 MPH	1	<0.1%
55–60 MPH	1	<0.1%

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Although Huss Ave is not considered a cut-through route between two state-maintained highways, which would typically qualify the street for a speed bump, it is commonly used as a shortcut between Legion Road and Main Street. This results in a higher number of vehicles using the street to bypass heavier traffic.

Huss Ave presents several characteristics that make lower travel speeds appropriate:

- The roadway is narrower than most two-way streets within the Town of Hudson.
- There are multiple locations where two oncoming vehicles have limited clearance when passing each other.
- Drivers often must reduce speed or move closer to the edge of the roadway to safely pass each other.
- The residential nature of the roadway increases the potential for pedestrian activity and neighborhood traffic.

These conditions reduce the roadway's margin for error and increase the likelihood of incidents when vehicles travel at higher speeds.

Chief Nelson noted that during the time of the speed study, most of the traffic was traveling between the 0 to 30mph range. The fastest speeds recorded were one vehicle at 55 to 60mph, and one vehicle at 40 to 44mph. Chief Nelson suggested that lowering the speed limit to 15mph may be the best solution, and he offered the following potential benefits of lowering the speed limit.

Reducing the posted speed limit to 15 MPH would provide several benefits:

- Improve the ability of opposing vehicles to safely pass each other on narrow portions of the roadway.
- Increase driver reaction time when encountering pedestrians, cyclists, parked vehicles, or other hazards.
- Reduce stopping distances and the severity of potential crashes.
- Address the concerns expressed by residents during the April Town Board meeting.
- Encourage drivers using Huss Ave as a shortcut between Legion Road and Main Street to travel at safer speeds through the neighborhood.

Richard stated that during his time as Chief of Police, the problem with speeding on Huss Avenue was also presented and studied. He stated that some of the options considered at that time were: speed humps (street did not meet criteria), making Huss a one-way street, and widening the street. Richard stated that the neighborhood was canvassed, and the feelings from the residents at that time were to leave the street alone.

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The Committee discussed the options, and suggested that if the decision is made to lower the speed limit, public service announcements be made to the neighborhood, making them aware that the speed limit would be changing as of a certain date. Then the Police Dept. could help educate drivers by writing warning tickets for a short time after the speed limit is changed.

Richard commented that after the “educational period” is over, the Police Dept. should be ready to back up the change by having a presence on the street, and writing tickets.

It was also suggested that the Town could do Robo calls to make residents aware of the speed limit change, and letters could also be mailed to the resident of Huss Avenue notifying them of the change.

Motion: (Richard Blevins/Ann Smith) to lower the speed limit on Huss Avenue to 15mph beginning October 1, 2026, with public service announcements about the speed limit change being made to the residents of the street and community until the change is made, and with the Police Dept. writing warning tickets at the beginning of the change to help educate drivers, with this recommendation being presented to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Unanimously approved.

Eastview Street Speed Study:

Chief Nelson presented the following information pertaining to a request for an additional speed hump on Eastview Street.

Background Information:

The purpose of this proposal is to recommend an additional speed hump on Eastview Street near the intersection of Eastwood Village Court to improve traffic safety by reducing vehicle speeds, helping with visibility at the intersection, and providing safer access for residents exiting Eastwood Village Court.

Eastview Street currently has two speed humps that have been helpful in slowing traffic through this residential neighborhood. However, the section of roadway between the last existing speed hump and Main Street is approximately 1,138 feet in length, making it the longest uninterrupted stretch of Eastview Street without a speed hump. This distance allows vehicles to increase speed before reaching Main Street and is in a slight curve on a grade.

Installing an additional speed hump near Eastwood Village Court would create a better distribution of speed humps along Eastview Street, encouraging drivers to maintain safer and more consistent speeds throughout the neighborhood rather than accelerating after passing the final speed hump.

Drivers exiting Eastwood Village Court often have difficulty seeing approaching traffic until vehicles are relatively close to the intersection. Reducing vehicle speeds in this area would provide additional reaction time for both approaching motorists and drivers entering the roadway, thereby improving overall traffic safety.

Traffic volumes entering and exiting Eastwood Village Court have also increased over the past several years as new homes have been built within the subdivision. The continued residential

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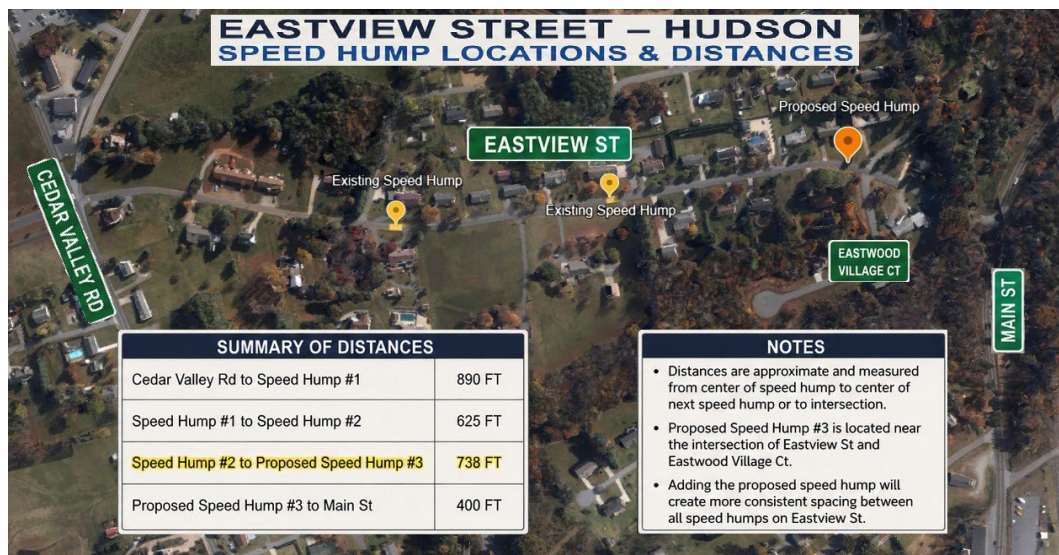
growth has resulted in more vehicles using the intersection each day, increasing the importance of maintaining lower travel speeds on Eastview Street.

A speed study was conducted on Eastview Street June 9th through June 16th, and showed the following results.

Number of Vehicles: 2,642

0 – 19 MPH	26%
20 – 25 MPH	37.9%
25 – 30 MPH	28.8%
30 – 35 MPH	6.3%
35 – 40 MPH	.7%
40 – 45 MPH	.1%
45 – 50 MPH	.1%

Chief Nelson presented a picture of the area, showing where the current speed humps are located, and where an additional one could be placed.



After some discussion, it was suggested that a decision on an additional speed hump for Eastview Street be tabled to allow for more time to study the situation, and do more research on the Town's policy for speed humps.

Adjournment

Motion: (Ann Smith/Richard Blevins) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk