

RE: Traffic concerns on Surprise Way

Several Surprise Valley Homeowners have contacted the office regarding traffic and vehicle accidents on Surprise Way. Surprise Way, like all streets in this community are under ACHD (Ada County Highway District) jurisdiction.

In recent months, the board has discussed several ideas for traffic mitigation. Bumps, dips, flashing lights, radar machine, increase police activity are just some.

Most have hurdles too high for a HOA to undertake, initiate or accomplish. Policemen have been stationed in the parking lot of the Satellite Pool several times at HOA request and they said that while they were there, there were not enough cars going fast enough to get a ticket. Timing is everything.

Surprise Valley homeowner, Bob Pharmer, has done extensive legwork and research on the situation and presented his findings to the Board of Directors meeting in March.

Bob's bullet point summary is below and attached you will find the ACHD traffic summary that was completed in February 2020.

The Board is open to any viable suggestions. Homeowner involvement and assistance is necessary.

Here is the summary of Mr. Pharmers research and findings.

ACHD completed their traffic study on Surprise Way. John Watson from ACHD called me last week and gave me a brief download on what they found as outlined below:

1. The study found that Surprise Way had 1,700 cars per day with a peak hour flow of 215 cars and having over 300 cars per hour would put Surprise Way into a different category.
2. Surprise Way is 10,600 feet long (just under 2 miles)
3. Speeding was found to be an issue with a set speed limit of 30 mph, they found speeders up to 38 mph with the number of speeders qualifying Surprise Way to be eligible for "traffic calming".
4. John said that there are two types of "speed bumps". Both go all the way across the roadway and are 3-1/2 inches high but traffic calming traffic are 22-feet long (called speed tables) giving a more gentler "bump" than the other which is 12-feet long.
5. John estimates that we would need 10-18 devices. I asked why so many and he said that if traffic calming were to be initiated that there were certain requirements. I believe that this was for the entire length of Surprise Way from Amity to Hwy 21.
6. The costs of the "speed bumps" are estimated at \$50,000 - \$60,000. John said that this would be paid by the HOA. After installation, ACHD would take over maintenance and repair of the

speed bumps.

7. John said that we would need 75% of the homeowners to sign a document saying that they want speed bumps. John said that he estimated about 346 homes with 321 off of Surprise Way and 25 at the Amity end of the road.
8. John would need to get approval of the two fire stations in our area (hwy 21 and Barber Valley)
9. John is willing to make a presentation at a HOA meeting so that the Board can hear it directly from him and ask questions
10. If Surprise Valley HOA decided to move this the next steps are as follows:
 - a. ACHD would provide a map of our area with a address list of home owners
 - b. We would have 90 days to get the signatures, but this could be extended if needed.
 - c. ACHD would do a “cut-through” study to determine how many cars cut through between Hwy 21 and Amity (versus living in S.V.)
 - d. We would pay for the materials and labor to construct the speed bumps. Nothing would be paid until ACHD bid the project and received firm bids.

John Watson, ACHD telephone # (208) 387-6151.