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Ald. Robert J. Bauman
(414) 286-3774

Ald. Bauman Proposes Traffic Calming Ordinance

Ald. Bob Bauman is sponsoring a “traffic calming” proposal to encourage slower driving and enhance pedestrian safety throughout Milwaukee.

The proposal would create a system in which neighborhoods could ask the city to construct a device, such as a mini roundabout or a “speed hump.” A speed hump functions much like a speed bump but is less jarring, and does not significantly impair snowplows and emergency vehicles.

Ald. Bauman, chair of the Public Works Committee, said the ordinance is a tool for residents to gain control of busy and dangerous streets, including ones used by drivers trying to avoid red lights. In two spots in his district, speed humps have been in place on a trial basis since August. So far they have received “rave reviews,” the alderman said.

The city still is refining the proposal, but residents would be given various choices. A speed hump would cost about \$3,000, while a mini roundabout, or traffic circle—a raised concrete curb at the center of an intersection—would cost about \$10,000. **The measure is expected to be approved by the Public Works Committee on Dec. 12 and will be taken up by the full Common Council that morning.** The procedures could be in place by Jan. 1.

“People want safer streets,” Ald. Bauman said. “The ordinance is a safety measure not only for drivers, but for residents and pedestrians as well, and it could significantly help improve the quality of life in many neighborhoods.”