Prince William County is determining the effectiveness of Pole Mounted Speed Displays.

With the pilot program, we are installing the devices on Hillendale Drive in the Neabsco District and on Vint Hill Road at the limits of the Greenwich community in the Brentsville District. Neither of these roads are eligible for conventional residential traffic calming measures.

Our residential traffic calming program is limited to Local Residential streets with posted speed limits of 25 mph and that carry volumes between 600 and 6000 vehicles per day. Hillendale Drive carries over 15,000 vehicles per day and is a Major Collector road. Vint Hill Road has a posted speed limit of 35 mph in the town limits, carries 11,000 vehicles per day and is a Minor Arterial road.

This program can provide an alternative to those situations where conventional traffic calming measures such as speed tables or multiway stops may not be applicable.

Often motorist simply are not aware of the speed that they're traveling and this will provide a reminder for them to slow down.

Including installation the units cost approximately $5000 apiece and are solar powered. The installations are a combined effort of the Department of Public Works (PWC Sign Shop, Buildings and Grounds) and the Prince William County Department of Transportation. The equipment meets or exceeds the requirements established by VDOT and are installed under a permit on VDOT right-of-way.

We have been looking at potential speed mitigation measures on Hillendale Drive for over 20 years. It started back in the 1980’s with a wide parking lane to narrow the travel way in an effort to reduce the speeds. A multi-way stop at Hendricks Drive was considered however; a traffic simulation model revealed that it would back up traffic to Dale Boulevard and to the Prince William Parkway. Hillendale Drive has a through truck restriction and was the first road in Prince William County to have the additional $200 fines for speeding.

Hillendale is an urban environment posted at 25 mph with sidewalks and Vint Hill is more rural posted at 35 through Greenwich which makes them both ideal for the pilot program.

DOT staff collected speed data before the devices were installed. We will be doing an analysis to determine their effectiveness in the near future. At that time we will establish a policy on how and where these could be considered throughout the County if they are successful.
Richard Weinmann, Department of Transportation Staff.