

Information Item

Date: January 11, 2022

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Interim Assistant City Manager
Toneq' McCullough, Director of Transportation

Subject:

Information on the Traffic Calming Policy

Strategic Focus Area: Quality Transportation

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



In 2003, the City Council adopted the Traffic Calming Policy to address safety and speeding concerns along City streets. Since then, City staff has received 114 petitions. Over the past several years, staff has seen a significant increase in the number of traffic calming inquiries and petitions received resulting in a backlog of projects. Currently, there are 26 active projects at various stages in the process, three projects waiting on traffic data collection and evaluation, and eight projects waiting on the neighborhood to decide if they want to move forward in the process. During the 2021 calendar year, staff has received 85 traffic calming inquiries and provided information on the policy. There are currently two staff members primarily responsible for managing these projects. This includes the Transportation Operations Manager and a Senior Engineering Technician. Other staff in the department lend support as needed.

City staff strives to meet the expectations of the citizens to keep projects moving forward. However, the volume of requests has reached a level that has become challenging to handle in a timely and efficient manner. To provide more timely and efficient responses to Traffic Calming requests, staff investigated the programs managed by other municipalities. Based upon that review, staff recommend the following changes to the Traffic Calming Policy:

- Create an on-line video explaining the traffic calming process so citizens are informed and understand the process, options and neighborhood approval ballot requirements.
- Replace the policy requirement for the neighborhood meeting with an on-line pre-recorded presentation that explains the process, the proposed traffic calming plan and the neighborhood approval process. The video would be available to the property owners and residents to view for 2-3 weeks. Citizens would be able to contact staff with specific questions and those without internet access could also contact staff for information on the proposed plan and maps.

- Limit the total traffic calming petitions to be reviewed by staff in a year to 15 or a comparable number. This limit can be based on a first-come-first-serve basis. Any petitions received after the limit is reached can either be held for the following year, or it may require resubmission.
- Temporarily suspend new traffic calming requests in order to allow staff to work through the backlog of existing requests.
- Add language that states that streets under 500 feet in length will not be eligible for traffic calming.

The suggestions above will assist with staff's ability to address citizen concerns and expectations. It will also allow projects to move concurrently through the process.