



September 18, 2020

TO: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee

FROM: Nicole Losch, Senior Planner

RE: Updated Traffic Calming Manual

Recommendations

This item is Informational only.

Purpose & Need

The purpose of the Traffic Calming program is to support connected, safe, affordable, and efficient transportation choices. The Traffic Calming program needs to quickly respond to issues of speeding, crashes, or truck traffic on neighborhood streets.

Introduction

Burlington's Traffic Calming and Neighborhood Enhancement Program was established in the late 1990's and has not been updated since the early 2000's. Requests are neighborhood-initiated and require 1/3 of the neighborhood to support the request for traffic calming. Projects advance in the order they are received and take many years to complete. An assessment was completed in 2019 that identified ways to prioritize traffic calming projects on streets with demonstrable safety issues.

With support from Stantec, the Traffic Calming program has been updated and is now available for review. Key features of the updated program include:

- Removed the requirement for a neighborhood petition, making the program more equitable and accessible to all residents
- Thresholds for speeding, crashes, and truck volumes will determine when traffic calming should be pursued
- Traffic calming designs will target design speeds established in planBTV Walk Bike and the Burlington Transportation Plan

- Traffic calming design review will be streamlined by removing the neighborhood poll that allowed residents to opt in or out of traffic calming improvements. This will make the program more equitable for all streets that need to prioritize traffic safety improvements

These changes should streamline the process to deliver improvements and address traffic safety issues.

Considerations and Public Engagement

The following streets have active traffic calming requests (listed in the order they were received and not including projects actively in design):

Scarff Avenue

Mansfield Avenue

Foster Street / Ferguson Avenue / Lyman Avenue / Morse Place

Cayuga Court

East Avenue

Bright Street

Pine Street

Austin Drive / South Cove Road / Dunder Road

Gosse Court

These streets received preliminary analysis to determine if they meet the new thresholds of speeding, crash history, and truck traffic to warrant continuation in the traffic calming program. When the analysis has been cross-checked by DPW engineering or data collection is complete, the person who initiated each traffic calming request will be notified of their status under the new program.

This project falls under INFORM on the Spectrum of Engagement. While adopting new standards and policies only requires it be posted online once final, additional tools of engagement have been applied since this is an updated program with neighborhood significance. The tools of engagement for this project includes:

- ✓ Notifications to City Councilors
- ✓ Front Porch Forum announcement
- ✓ Individual notices pending for any street on which a traffic calming petition has already been received
- ✓ Informational guide posted on the DPW website
- ✓ NPA attendance as requested

Attachments

Final draft Traffic Calming Manual