

Birchcliff Parkway Traffic Calming



In response to a neighborhood request for traffic calming along Birchcliff Parkway, the Department of Public Works hosted a public meeting on September 15, 2020. We heard unanimous input that improvements should be made to reduce traffic speeds. We also heard support for pedestrian crossings (although secondary to traffic calming), concerns relating to roadway width and turning maneuvers at curb extensions, and limited options for re-routing vehicles away from Birchcliff Parkway.

The City acknowledges that measures must be taken to reduce traffic speeds and support public safety on Birchcliff Parkway. Based on the neighborhood's input, a plan has been developed that will install traffic calming treatments at regular intervals along Birchcliff Parkway.

MORE INFORMATION

Attached to this mailer, please reference Figure 1 and Figure 2 for more detail about the traffic calming improvements planned for construction in 2021. An overview is provided in Figure 1, with more detail provided in Figure 2.

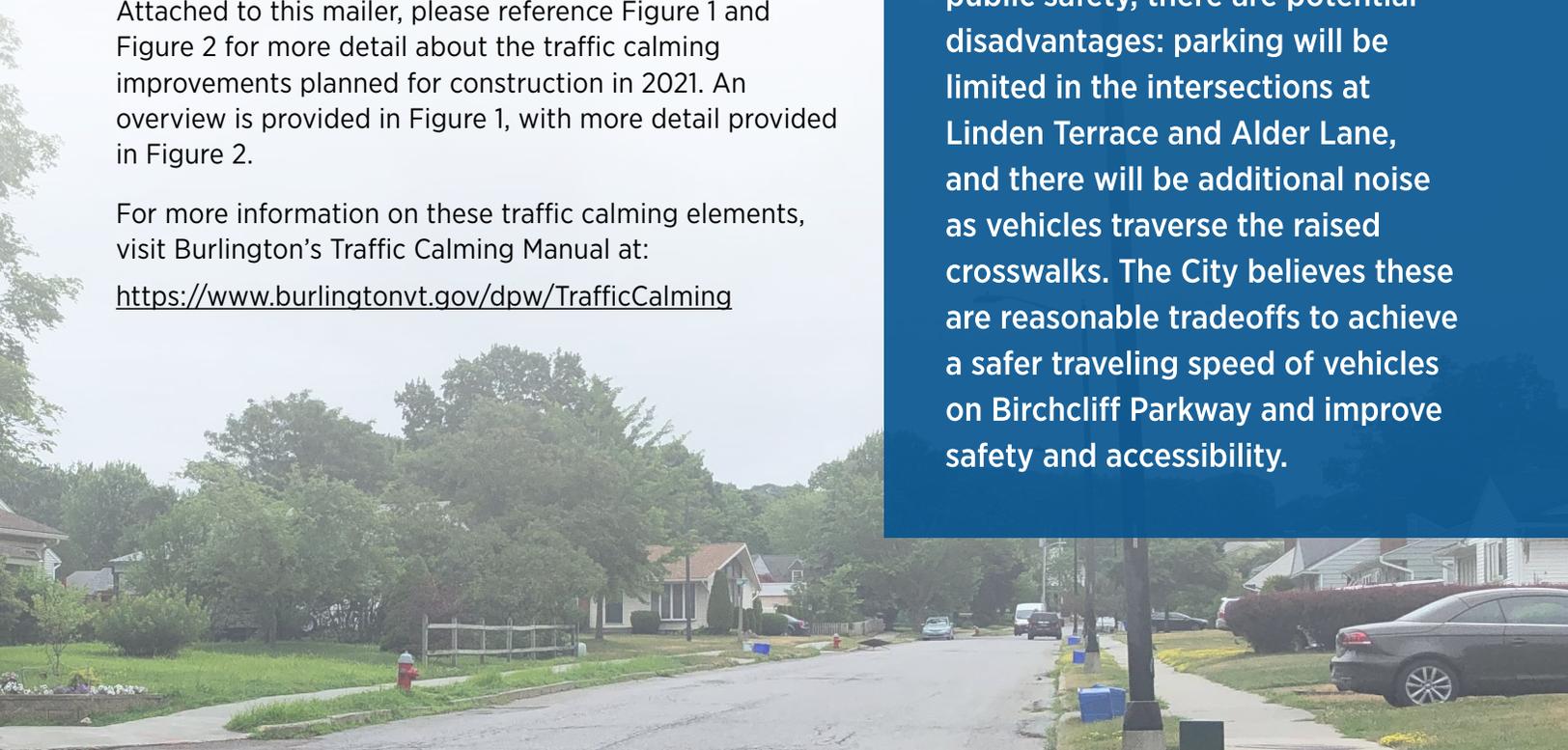
For more information on these traffic calming elements, visit Burlington's Traffic Calming Manual at:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/TrafficCalming>

Planned Improvements:

Raised crosswalks paired with curb extensions will be installed at Linden Terrace and Alder Lane. Raised crosswalks are akin to speed humps but also improve pedestrian connectivity. Curb extensions create a narrower roadway, improve visibility of pedestrians at crosswalks, and provide an opportunity for landscaping in the extensions. In other areas, these treatments have reduced traffic speeds 6-9 miles per hour and reduced cut-through traffic when installed as a series.

While these treatments will reduce traffic speeds and improve public safety, there are potential disadvantages: parking will be limited in the intersections at Linden Terrace and Alder Lane, and there will be additional noise as vehicles traverse the raised crosswalks. The City believes these are reasonable tradeoffs to achieve a safer traveling speed of vehicles on Birchcliff Parkway and improve safety and accessibility.





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What's Next?

- » The planned improvements shown in Figure 2 will be constructed in 2021.
- » The optional gateway will be constructed in 2021 if 2/3 of the neighborhood contacts DPW to show support for its installation.
- » A crosswalk at Bittersweet Lane will be evaluated separately by DPW.
- » The Cherry Lane speed table will continue to be evaluated.
- » Traffic speeds will be reassessed in 2022.
- » DPW will keep the project website updated and will notify the neighborhood prior to construction in 2021. Anyone without Internet access is encouraged to contact DPW by phone.

We Want To Hear From You!

The City of Burlington DPW is soliciting feedback on proposed improvements at Birchcliff Parkway & Shelburne Street. The potential improvements would include a narrowing of Birchcliff Parkway to establish a gateway treatment for the neighborhood, and attempt to discourage cut-through traffic.

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FIGURE 1: Birchcliff Parkway Improvements Overview



The curve west of Bittersweet Lane provides a measure of traffic calming, so additional traffic calming elements are not needed at this location. **A crosswalk will be considered** by DPW separate from this traffic calming project.

Curb Bumpouts & Speed Tables with Crosswalks

See Project Inset (Figure 2) for more detail about improvements to be designed at Alder Lane and Linden Terrace.

OPTIONAL: Shelburne Street Gateway Neckdowns

This will not have a substantial impact on traffic speeds. However, it can be included as a gateway treatment for the neighborhood if there is strong support.

YOU MUST CONTACT DPW TO REQUEST THIS BE CONSTRUCTED. We require 2/3 of the households to support this concept for it to be advanced for construction.

FIGURE 2: Detailed Layout of Improvements at Alder Lane and Linden Terrace

