

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council</b> <b>Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	November 20, 2017
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>57</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>17-2003</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>17-803</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving the establishment of a Traffic Calming Program for Des Moines’ neighborhoods.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval to establish a Traffic Calming Program for Des Moines’ neighborhoods that includes the program process, requirements, and consideration of future funding. The number one (1) concern that Traffic and Transportation staff receives from neighborhoods on a routine basis is the issue of speeding vehicle traffic in residential areas. As each of these issues is unique, it is important that there be a clear defined process for evaluating and implementing the need for traffic calming in a neighborhood, therefore, staff has developed the Des Moines Traffic Calming Program. The goal of this program is to reduce vehicular speeds and discourage traffic not related to residential use to provide a more livable neighborhood that encourages walking and biking.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$250,000 annually

Funding Source: Future consideration for the 2018-19 CIP, Traffic Studies, TR031, G.O. Bonds.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) defines traffic calming the following way: “The primary purpose of traffic calming is to support the livability and vitality of residential and commercial areas through improvements in non-motorist safety, mobility, and comfort. These objectives are typically achieved by reducing vehicle speeds or volumes on a single street or a street network. Traffic calming measures consist of horizontal, vertical, lane narrowing, roadside, and other features that use self-enforcing physical or psycho-perception means to produce desired effects.”
- The City of Des Moines wants to promote the overall safety of the traveling public and encourage the use of multiple modes of transportation. Research has found that the higher the speed a vehicle is traveling when a pedestrian is hit, the lower the chance for survivability.
- PlanDSM seeks to encourage all forms of transportation and improve resident health and livelihood. If the City wants to encourage these forms of active transportation, such as walking and biking, the City needs to have a way to address the concerns received regarding speeding traffic in our neighborhoods.

- As each of these issues is unique, it is important that there be a clear and defined process for evaluating and implementing the need for traffic calming in a neighborhood; therefore, Traffic and Transportation staff has developed the proposed Des Moines Traffic Calming Program. This program includes the process and its requirements for a street to receive traffic calming.
- The goal of this program is to reduce vehicular speeds and discourage volumes of traffic not related to residential use to provide a more livable neighborhood that encourages walking and biking. The process includes coordination to ensure installation of devices does not unduly affect response time for emergency service vehicles and other large vehicles such as school buses and trucks used for providing essential services (solid waste collection, snow removal, deliveries, etc.).
- Staff is recommending approval of the City of Des Moines Traffic Calming Program process and requirements. The next step will be the formal consideration by the City Council to set funding for the program in the FY2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Based on requests and anticipated workload, staff estimates working on two (2) to four (4) projects each year. Initial funding recommendation will be \$250,000 annually to accomplish the studies, design, and construction. This amount will be adjusted as the program develops.

The City of Des Moines Traffic Calming Program includes the following process/requirements:

1. The street considered for traffic calming must be classified as either a local street or collector street. *(This will be updated with new Street Typology categories as developed through the Transportation Master Plan.)*
2. Average daily traffic (ADT) volumes should be greater than 500 vehicles per day but less than 4,000 vehicles per day.
3. To be considered for traffic calming, a formal written request is required from the neighborhood association OR a signed petition from at least 60% of the property owners along the street proposed for traffic calming.

\*\*\* Ward Council Member and Transportation Safety Committee Notification \*\*\*

4. Speed data will then be collected. A sample of at least 50 vehicles in each direction at a given location should show at least 15% of the vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 5-miles per hour. *(Speed study estimated to take 2-weeks.)*
5. If the requirements above are satisfied, the City will conduct a traffic study, including an evaluation of potential traffic problems, roadway geometry, and the impact the proposed traffic calming measures may have on adjacent streets. *(Once started, traffic study estimated to take 6-weeks.)*
6. City staff will solicit comments and support on the proposed traffic calming measures from the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments, Des Moines Public Schools, and DART as appropriate. *(Estimated to take 2-weeks.)*

\*\*\* Ward Council Member Check-In \*\*\*

7. City staff will meet with the applicant(s) to review the traffic study and discuss potential infrastructure improvements to address the traffic concerns. A conceptual plan of improvements based on the study and feedback from the applicant(s) will be developed. Staff will solicit comments and support on the proposed street modification from Police, Fire, Public Works, Des Moines Public Schools, and DART as appropriate. *(Once started, Plan Development estimated to take 6-weeks.)*

\*\*\* Ward Council Member Check-In \*\*\*

8. If the applicant(s) is NOT the neighborhood association, City staff and the applicant(s) will discuss the traffic concerns, traffic study, and conceptual plan of improvements with the neighborhood association for support. *(Neighborhood Association check-in estimated to take 4-weeks, if needed.)*
9. If the traffic study and the neighborhood association supports the proposed traffic calming measures, a survey will be sent to all adjacent property owners on the street where the traffic calming elements are proposed to be placed. The proposal must be supported by at least 60% of those responding in order to be considered for implementation. A low number of survey responses will be taken into account, as well as responses from properties directly adjacent to the proposed traffic calming improvements.

\*\*\* Ward Council Member Check-In \*\*\*

10. If supported as described in step nine (9), the traffic concerns, traffic study, conceptual plan of improvements, and comments received will be presented to the Des Moines Transportation Safety Committee for comment and recommendation for funding as established by City Council. *(Once survey responses received, staff will take to next scheduled monthly Transportation Safety meeting. If approved, project will move into design and construction phase, which could take 6-12 months, subject to available funding.)*
11. Each year, the Des Moines City Council will be asked to approve established funding for the Traffic Calming Program to be incorporated into the City's Capital Improvement Program.

After Implementation of Traffic Calming Improvements:

- Staff will perform an “after” traffic speed study approximately 1-year after the traffic calming improvements are constructed to determine the effectiveness of the project.
- Traffic calming requests for streets that parallel streets that are receiving traffic calming infrastructure will not be studied until the “after” study is completed.
- If the “after” study shows that the project is accomplishing the traffic calming goals, the project must stay in place for at least 3-years from the installation of the improvements.
- Requested removal of the traffic calming project by adjacent property owners would require a petition process similar to what is required to install the project.
- The City reserves the right to remove or modify the traffic calming project at any time if deemed necessary due to safety concerns.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: October 10, 2017

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Moved by Chad Mason to approve staff recommendation with the modification that the proposed Traffic Calming Program include notification of City Council and Transportation Safety Committee members at Step 3; seconded by Scott Bents. The motion was approved by a consensus of the members present (no quorum).

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Future consideration for funding of \$250,000 in the 2018-19 CIP.

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