
Traffic Calming Policy

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee for Transportation recommend to City Council:
That the proposed Traffic Calming Policy be approved.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request City Council approval of a newly proposed Traffic Calming Policy to replace the existing Neighbourhood Traffic Review (NTR) program upon completion.

Report Highlights

1. The NTR program is expected to wrap up in 2020 after completing all existing residential and industrial neighbourhoods.
2. Traffic calming needs of neighbourhoods that have completed a NTR will be addressed through a citizen-driven process, organized similarly to the Residential Parking Permit program.
3. A proposed Traffic Calming Policy has been drafted as a means to establish a process to address resident concerns with speeding and shortcutting that have not already been addressed through a completed NTR.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Moving Around as it improves the safety of all road users (pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers), and helps provide a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Background

City Council, at its meeting held on August 14, 2013, approved the NTR Program which includes a strategy to review concerns on a neighbourhood-wide basis by engaging the community and stakeholders in identifying specific traffic issues, and developing joint recommendations that address the issues.

Report

The NTR program was designed to involve the community in identifying traffic problems and in selecting solutions. The traffic review and analysis has currently been completed within the NTR program only addresses locations of concern brought forward by the community.

The NTR program is anticipated to continue until 2020 to complete the residential and industrial neighbourhoods (40 completed, 10 underway, and 22 to be completed).

Residents' traffic concerns regarding speeding and shortcutting are typically reviewed and addressed during the NTR for that neighbourhood.

The Administration has received several requests for traffic calming in neighbourhoods that have completed a NTR previously. This may be due to the length of time that has passed since the NTR was completed or due to changes in the neighbourhood that could have affected the traffic patterns since the NTR was completed.

This Traffic Calming Policy (Attachment 1) has been developed to provide residents with an ongoing mechanism to address neighbourhood traffic safety concerns once a NTR is complete.

A Traffic Calming Guide (Attachment 2) has been prepared to educate residents on the different measures available and includes estimated costs and information on how to request traffic calming, and the process to be followed. This Guide will replace the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Guidelines and Tools document.

A petition mechanism, similar to the existing Residential Parking Permit program, will form the basis for traffic calming requests.

There are several municipalities that use similar processes to address traffic safety concerns and requests for traffic calming. The Administration has completed a review of other municipalities' approaches to traffic calming, summarized in Attachment 3.

The proposed traffic calming process includes the following steps:

Phase 1: Application & Data Collection

1. Traffic calming request
2. Preliminary screening
3. Community support assessment

Phase 2: Traffic Calming Plan

1. Point assessment
2. Develop traffic calming concept
3. Community ballot

Phase 3: Final Design & Approval

1. Traffic calming design
2. Rank project for budget deliberation

Phase 4: Implementation & Evaluation

1. Funding decision
2. Implementation
3. Evaluation

Options to the Recommendation

City Council could direct the Administration to continue with the existing NTR process to complete a second round of NTRs for each neighbourhood. This would need to begin in 2021 and would require an additional 9 to 10 years to complete.

This option is not recommended as the majority of resources would continue to be allocated to neighbourhood concerns on local and collector roads with less resources to focus on traffic safety issues at a city-wide level.

City Council could direct the Administration to complete the NTR program before adopting the Traffic Calming Policy. While this approach would allow staff resources to remain focused on completing the remaining neighbourhood reviews, it would delay addressing outstanding speeding and shortcutting concerns in neighbourhoods with a completed NTR and therefore is not recommended.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The public and stakeholders will continue to raise traffic concerns with speeding and shortcutting by way of various communication methods available: calls, emails, community meetings, neighbourhood traffic reviews, etc.

Communication Plan

If approved, this policy will be posted to the City website, and shared with key internal City agencies that handle special applications and liaise with the Community Associations.

In addition, an information sheet summarizing the guide will be made available to inquiring residents and in the customer service area of City Hall, and a news release and/or news conference may held at the time of the policy's introduction.

Policy Implications

City Council approval is sought for the establishment of the new Traffic Calming Policy.

Financial Implications

The traffic calming measures identified through the revised process are expected to be similar in cost to those implemented through the existing NTR program. However there should be fewer locations requiring installation after completion of the NTR program and conversion of the temporary measures to permanent installation city-wide. Locations for implementation will be prioritized annually and are expected to be funded through Capital Project #1504 – Neighbourhood Traffic Review Permanent Installations.

Environmental Implications

Traffic calming measures typically have positive greenhouse gas emissions implications as they tend to reduce total vehicle mileage in an area by reducing speeds and improving conditions for walking, cycling and transit use.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no privacy or CPTED considerations or implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

A priority list of traffic calming measures to be implemented will be submitted annually for Budget Deliberations.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachments

1. Traffic Calming Policy
2. Traffic Calming Guide
3. Jurisdictional Review of Traffic Calming Programs

Report Approval

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