

2019 Traffic Calming Update

Background

The City's Transportation and Innovation Services section receives numerous requests each year to install traffic calming measures such as speed humps, pavement markings and additional signage to reduce speeding and improve safety on its roadways. In February, 2008, the City of Greater Sudbury retained IBI Group to develop a traffic calming policy to aid staff in evaluating requests and the application of traffic calming devices. This policy was adopted by City Council on May 12, 2010.

What is Traffic Calming?

The Institute of Transportation Engineering defines traffic calming as "the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behaviour and improve measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behaviour and improve conditions for non motorized street users."

Traffic Calming Warrant

The City's traffic calming warrant is based upon the review of the best practices of over twenty (20) jurisdictions throughout North America. In addition, public input was solicited through surveys posted on the City's website and at the Citizen Services Centres. Two (2) stakeholder workshops were also held with City departments and agencies including City Councillors, Police, Fire, EMS, Planning, Roads and Engineering.

The traffic calming warrant consists of an initial screening where a combination of requirements must be met for a site to be eligible for traffic calming. The threshold criteria and screening process can be found in the attached Exhibits "A" and "B".

Sites that pass the initial screening are then ranked against each other using a weighted point criteria based on the classification of the road. Each eligible site is awarded points based on its score for each factor, with a maximum score of 100 points. A score of 30 points has been established as a minimum threshold to qualify for traffic calming consideration. The scoring criteria for local and collector roads is outlined in the attached Exhibit "C".

Initial Screening and Ranking of City of Greater Sudbury Roads

Over the past year, residents requested six locations to be evaluated for traffic calming. Three locations met the minimum criteria and have been added to the final ranked list (see Exhibit "E") while three locations did not. See Exhibit "D" for the list of road segments which did not qualify.

Overall the initial screening process has been completed for 291 road segments on 184 different roads. Of the 291 road segments reviewed, 31 qualified for the ranking process and scored more than 30 points to qualify for traffic calming consideration. As part of the final ranking process, any abutting road segments that each scored greater than 30 points were combined into one segment and assigned the higher score of the two abutting road segments.

Final Ranking

As indicated in the attached Exhibit “E”, a total of 31 roadways qualify for traffic calming. Depending on the calming devices chosen and the length of the project, the City's traffic calming budget of \$175,000 should be enough to complete one major roadway, similar in size to Southview Drive or Attlee Avenue. This cost would only cover the proposed traffic calming measures.

In addition to the eligible roadways, Exhibit “E” shows the project length and indicates whether the road is a transit route or primary emergency services route. It is noted that the cost estimates may vary greatly depending on the devices preferred by the residents. For example, on a 1 km road, you could add pavement markings for bicycle infrastructure for \$10,000 or construct physical devices for \$150,000. Roadways that are not transit routes or primary emergency service routes may qualify for vertical traffic calming measures such as speed humps. Speed humps are not only effective in reducing vehicle speed but are also less expensive to construct than many other calming devices.

Roadways that are eligible for traffic calming and are also identified under the Roads Capital Program for infrastructure improvements, will have the recommended traffic calming measures incorporated as part of the design and construction. Kathleen Street is an example of where traffic calming was incorporated as part of the capital contract.

Initiated Projects

Since 2010, staff has initialized several traffic calming projects throughout the City, some of which were stand-alone projects and others which were incorporated into other infrastructure improvements carried out under the Roads capital program. The April 2016 report entitled “[Traffic Calming – 2015 Ranking](#)” contains more information on completed projects. In addition, the report entitled “[Southview Traffic Calming Update](#)” contains a history of traffic calming on Southview Drive and how the current traffic calming plan was created and implemented.

Project Updates

In May 2018, staff began the public consultation process in advance of 2019 infrastructure improvement capital projects proposed on York Street and Auger Avenue.

In accordance with the traffic calming policy, staff polled residents on both York Street and Auger Avenue to see if there was support for traffic calming. Public information sessions were held for both locations to inform and consult with residents.

As per the traffic calming policy, in order for a traffic calming plan to be developed, a minimum 50% response rate was required from residents, with a minimum 60% support rate of all respondents. In both cases, less than 50% of residents responded which meant staff did not proceed with developing a traffic calming plan for these locations.

Future Projects

As shown on Exhibit “E”, Riverside Drive is the top priority on the traffic calming ranking. Staff will begin the public consultation process for Riverside Drive during 2019.

Traffic Calming Policy Review

Since the implementation of the traffic calming policy there have been eight locations that have gone to the public consultation/survey stage to determine if residents support the development or implementation of a traffic calming plan on their street. As summarized in the table below, of the eight locations, only two achieved the minimum response and support rate to proceed with a traffic calming plan.

Location	Response Rate (50% required)	Support Rate (60% required)
Jean Street	33%	58%
Niemi Road	68%	84%
King Street	19%	63%
Robinson Drive	60%	48%
Attlee Avenue	60%	90%
Ontario Street	36%	70%
York Street	48%	66%
Auger Avenue	42%	60%

Residents have expressed frustrations with City staff regarding the process to advance traffic calming projects while their concerns regarding speeding on the road continue. With these concerns in mind, staff are proposing a change to the

minimum response rate required to proceed with developing a traffic calming plan and a pilot project for temporary traffic calming measures. These changes are outlined below.

Minimum Response Rate

In order to determine if the minimum response and support rates were comparable in the province, staff researched other municipality's traffic calming policies. The table below shows the majority of municipalities have stopped polling residents or have lowered the minimum thresholds.

Municipality	Minimum Response Rate	Minimum Support Rate
City of London	25%	25%
City of Ottawa	N/A	N/A
City of Kingston	N/A	N/A
City of Barrie	N/A	N/A
City of Brampton	N/A	N/A
City of Burlington	50%+1	N/A
City of Guelph	60%	60%
City of Kitchener	50%	60%
City of Windsor	N/A	60%
City of Vaughn	75%	75%

Since public support is paramount when considering traffic calming initiatives, staff recommends the traffic calming policy be amended so that the required minimum response rate to have a traffic calming plan developed be lowered to 25% and while keeping the required minimum support rate at 60%. If the minimum response rate is revised as recommended above, it is anticipated that more traffic calming projects will move to the development and implementation stage where residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback to help develop and vote on whether they support the final traffic calming plan. Staff recommend the required 50% response rate and 60% support rate remain the same for voting on the final traffic calming plan to ensure there is strong support from the residents for traffic calming measures to be constructed.

Proposed Pilot Project – Temporary Traffic Calming Measures

Residents who live on roads which have qualified for traffic calming measures have expressed concerns with the length of time it takes for their road to begin the public consultation process. In order to address these concerns, staff are proposing a two year pilot project to install temporary traffic calming measures on the top two streets (Riverside Drive and Michelle Drive) identified on the traffic calming ranking.

Staff are proposing the use of temporary flexible bollards as a traffic calming measure. These bollards would be installed for the duration of the summer and removed in the fall. The City of Kingston recently piloted temporary flexible bollards as a traffic calming measure and achieved speed reductions of 8 to 10 km/h. A picture of the temporary flexible bollards utilized by the City of Kingston can be seen below. To achieve these speed reductions, the City of Kingston installed the bollards every 100 to 125 m. Based on this spacing, staff estimate the cost for purchasing, installing and removing the bollards for the proposed two year pilot will be \$25,000.

To measure the success of the pilot project, staff will conduct traffic studies to determine the effectiveness of the bollards, survey area residents to measure their satisfaction with the temporary measures and to review the costs of the project. The results of the pilot project will be included as part of the 2020 report on traffic calming along with a recommendation on whether to implement the temporary traffic calming measures on all roads which qualify for traffic calming.



Resources Cited

Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers and Transportation Association of Canada, *Canadian Guide to Neighbourhood Traffic Calming*, 1998

City of Greater Sudbury, *Traffic Calming Policy*, Accessed online:
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=1993.pdf>