



**CITY OF SALINAS  
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
**FROM:** DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
**THRU:** ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER  
**BY:** GERARDO RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
**TITLE:** PASEO GRANDE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution approving the Paseo Grande Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan supported by residents for implementation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its June 21, 2022 meeting, City Council approved the 2022-2023 fiscal year priority traffic calming projects, whereas Paseo Grande ranked the highest priority. Staff worked with residents from the Paseo Grande neighborhood to develop a traffic calming plan. As required by the City's policy a vote was conducted to gauge community support, and the Paseo Grande traffic calming plan received the support votes required as prescribed by the City's policy. Therefore, staff recommends the approval and implementation of the Paseo Grande Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2009, the City Council adopted the Salinas Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to address residential neighborhood traffic concerns. The program was established initially to address concerns from neighborhoods that could not be supported by traffic enforcement since it was impractical at the time to deploy traffic enforcement officers in residential areas. There had been a growing request for speed reduction throughout the City for which the City had no tools to address the residents' concerns.

Traffic calming devices are generally not considered traffic control devices as defined by the State and Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The City began compiling traffic calming studies in 2002 and found there was very few applications in California. To assist in the development of the City's Policy, the City hired a consultant to help develop the City's traffic calming policy based on best practices. The resulting policy contained a toolbox of traffic calming

measures that would be used to address neighborhood problems associated with speeds and vehicle volume on residential streets. The adoption of the policy also included the adoption of traffic calming tools that can be provided on City streets. The policy also provided the process for consideration of projects under the program which is important for securing support from residents of a neighborhood who would be affected by traffic calming implementation.

In the development of the City's traffic calming policy, City staff met with all affected parties including emergency response providers as well as other service providers such as solid waste collection services and street sweeping. These agencies and providers were all invited in the discussion of the traffic calming policy development. The traffic calming program implementation therefore includes considerations and understanding of the program by potentially affected parties. The City's policy only applies to city streets that have residential uses.

On September 14, 2017, with an influx of traffic calming requests received, the City approved criteria for prioritizing traffic calming requests based on traffic conditions, collision history, nearby land uses, geometrics and facilities. These criteria provide a transparent way to prioritize requests given the City's limited resources. Every year, staff presents traffic calming recommended priorities based on the criteria to the City Council. Council proceeds with implementation based on Council approved priorities.

Residents of Paseo Grande submitted a petition requesting the City to investigate speeding issues along Paseo Grande. Traffic studies were conducted in various locations along the street, and the results confirmed high speeds on Paseo Grande. Results met the criteria for traffic calming implementation.

The Traffic and Transportation Division held two (2) community meetings on September 29, 2022 and November 3, 2022, to develop a traffic calming plan with residents of the Paseo Grande neighborhood to address the speeding concerns of the neighborhood. With residents' input received at these meetings, the Paseo Grande Traffic Calming Plan was developed and finalized.

In accordance with the City's Traffic Calming Policy, the plan was taken to vote to determine support from residents. Ballots with pre-paid envelopes were mailed to residents of Paseo Grande, and the vote was conducted over a 5-week period. Residents were encouraged to talk to and inform their neighbors. On December 15, 2022, the voting period ended, and the neighborhood met the support vote requirement as prescribed in the City's policy. The City received ballots from 68% of all applicable households, meeting the 50% return rate requirement. Of the ballots received, 93% were in favor of the Plan, meeting the 67% in favor requirement. Staff is therefore recommending the implementation of the Paseo Grande Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

The proposed Paseo Grande Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan includes the installation of three (3) speed cushions and the establishment of approximately 150 feet of double yellow solid centerline striping along the curvature segment of Paseo Grande between Moreno Drive and Gaviota Drive. Speed cushions are vertical traffic calming devices and are similar to speed humps but are made of rubberized material. Speed cushions are designed to have lesser impact on fire department response and are spaced to maintain a speed of approximately 25 mph, which

corresponds to the speed limit on residential streets. Attachment 1 shows the approximate locations of the speed cushions and the double yellow solid centerline striping along Paseo Grande.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The Paseo Grande neighborhood traffic calming plan was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its January 12, 2023, meeting. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) recommending City Council approve a Resolution to implement the Paseo Grande neighborhood traffic calming plan supported by residents.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Staff has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15301, Class 1). The project consists of the operation, repair, or minor alteration of public streets involving no expansion of use. There would be no significant effect on the environment.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The Traffic Calming Program supports the Council's goal of "Public Safety".

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public Works staff coordinate with the Salinas Fire Department on the recommendation of the traffic calming plan. Staff also coordinates with the Salinas Police Department if traffic calming enforcement assistance is necessary.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The estimated total cost of these improvements is \$82,750 using the City's job order contract program. Alternatively, in the past the City's maintenance crews have been able to assist in the installation of speed cushions as overtime work. If the City's maintenance crews are available to perform this work the estimated cost to install the speed cushions and layout centerline striping is \$30,500. There are sufficient funds available in the Traffic Calming Program budget (CIP 9163) and/or the Street Repair/Traffic Safety budget (8180) to complete this work.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution  
Attachment 1: Paseo Grande Proposed Traffic Calming Plan