



CITY OF SALINAS
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

DATE: APRIL 10, 2025
DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
FROM: GERARDO RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT ENGINEER
TITLE: ROCHEX AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion recommending City Council approve a Resolution approving the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, supported by residents, for implementation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

City Council approved the FY 2023-2024 Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects, which ranked Rochex Avenue as the fourth highest priority. Staff held two community meetings and worked with residents of Rochex Avenue to develop a traffic calming plan. A first vote to gauge community support failed to meet the support requirements as prescribed by the City's Traffic Calming Policy. On February 13, 2025, the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommended a second vote to be conducted for the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan and the neighborhood has met the support requirements of the Traffic Calming Policy. Staff recommends the approval and implementation of the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

BACKGROUND:

At its June 13, 2023 meeting, City Council approved the FY 2023-2024 Prioritization Traffic Calming Projects, which ranked Rochex Avenue as the fourth highest priority. Staff met with residents of Rochex Avenue on January 18, 2024 and August 22, 2024, to develop a traffic calming plan ("Plan") for Rochex Avenue. With input received from the residents, a draft Plan for Rochex Avenue was developed which included speed cushions, pavement striping and markings, and crosswalk enhancements (see Attachment 2).

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. Pavement striping and markings are lines or legends on the pavement surface to delineate lanes, parking, or warning message. The pavement striping and markings will provide additional parking and narrow lanes which can reduce speed.

In accordance with the City's Traffic Calming Policy ("Policy"), the Plan was taken to a vote to determine support from residents. The vote was conducted over a 6-week period. On January 2, 2025, the voting period ended, and the neighborhood did not meet the support vote required. The City received ballots from 43% of all households, not meeting the 50% return rate requirement. Of the ballots received, 94% were in favor of the Plan. Therefore, staff recommended closing the traffic calming request for Rochex Avenue as presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission on its meeting of February 13, 2025, because the neighborhood did not meet the required support per the Policy.

At its meeting of February 13, 2025, the Traffic and Transportation Commission recommended for a second vote to be conducted. City staff conducted a second vote for the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan over a 4-week period. On March 27, 2025, the voting period ended, and the neighborhood met the support vote required. The City received ballots from 55% of all households, meeting the 50% return rate requirement. Of the ballots received, 95% were in favor of the Plan. Therefore, staff now recommends the approval and implementation of the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan supported by its residents.

While conducting the second vote for the Rochex Avenue Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, it was brought to the attention of staff that the number of households included some businesses fronting N Main St. This was brought to staff's attention during the first week of the second vote round. Staff acknowledged there had been an error with these addresses and removed them from the remainder of the time period of the second vote. The City went back and took a look at the fire vote results previously presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission. The revised results concluded that the neighborhood would have not met the plan support requirements and staff recommendation to the Commission would have remained the same.

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 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 \$44,370. There are sufficient funds available in the Traffic Calming Program Budget (CIP 9163).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Salinas Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Attachment 2: Rochex Avenue Proposed Traffic Calming Plan