



**CITY OF SALINAS
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

DEPARTMENT: **PUBLIC WORKS,**

FROM: **DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

BY: **ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER**

TITLE: **NACIONAL STREET NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING
PLAN**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to adopt a resolution for the approval and implementation of the Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution approving the Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan in accordance with the City's Traffic Calming Policy.

BACKGROUND:

A Traffic Calming Plan for Nacional Street was first implemented in 2016 utilizing chicanes, striping and radar feedback signs. Since the original implementation of the Traffic Calming Plan, Nacional Street residents requested more traffic calming. Although the project resulted in an initial reduction of speeds, a second after-study concluded that vehicular speeds were relatively high again.

The Traffic and Transportation Division held two (2) community meetings with residents of the Nacional Street neighborhood to develop a Traffic Calming Plan to address the speeding concerns of the neighborhood. With residents' input received at these meetings, a neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan was developed and finalized. It is also notable that the new plan calls for the removal of half of the chicanes installed in 2016. Residents during the plan development wanted to restore street parking and it was supported during the community meetings.

Per the City's Traffic Calming Policy, the plan was taken to vote to determine support from residents. In July 2019, the neighborhood met the support vote requirement as prescribed by the City's Traffic Calming Policy. The City received returned ballots from 53% of all applicable households, with 89% of the returned ballots in favor of the Plan. Staff is therefore recommending implementation of the Nacional Street neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

The proposed Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan includes the installation of speed cushions. 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 minimal 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. Additionally, the plan includes the removal of one of the two (2) two lane chokers in each direction of travel. The attached plan (see Attachment 1) shows the approximate locations of the speed cushions and the proposed locations for the removal of chicanes. The removal of the chicanes may result in higher speeds but it the plan is supported by the residents.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION:

The recommendation for the Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its August 2019 meeting. The Commission voted 6-0 to recommend to City Council the approval and implementation of the Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.

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 Policy supports Council goals of a safe, livable community.

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 cost of these improvements is \$70,000. There are sufficient funds available at this time in the traffic calming CIP (9163) to complete this work.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Nacional Street Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan