



**CITY OF SALINAS
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

DATE: MARCH 20, 2018

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC DIVISION

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TITLE: PRIORITIZATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution approving the Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution that approves the Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In previous years, staff has responded to neighborhood Traffic Calming requests in chronological order, based on date received. However, the requests for Traffic Calming Projects are anticipated to exceed the City's budgeted resources to respond to and provide traffic calming solutions for all neighborhoods currently petitioning for projects. Staff recommends the approval of The approval of the 2018-2019 Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects will prioritize requests estimated to fall within the annual Traffic Calming budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19. Requests from neighborhoods with the greatest score based on the speeds, volumes, collision history, pedestrian generators and geometric conditions are being recommended for consideration first.

BACKGROUND:

The City receives numerous requests, complaints and suggestions from residents regarding traffic related issues. Many residential concerns relate to driver behavior in the form of speeding or cut-through traffic on residential streets.

In 2005, Salinas adopted a Traffic Calming Program in an attempt to reduce the speed of vehicles and discourage cut-through traffic on residential streets. With the success and community support for completed traffic calming projects, requests for neighborhood traffic calming have been rapidly increasing. The City is evaluating requests as they are received, but Traffic Calming Projects are

now backlogged due to limited time and resources. On November 7 2017, staff recommended the adoption of a priority rating system based on data driven methodologies to deliver project based on identified needs and benefits. While all Traffic Calming Projects are still evaluated with data on traffic volumes, vehicle speeds and collisions, the proposed prioritization process adds weight to considerations of land uses that generate pedestrian activity (schools, libraries) and other engineering considerations (presence of sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.). The recommended prioritization criteria was approved by the City Council with a recommendation from the Traffic and Transportation Commission.

The average cost of a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project is approximately \$150,000 and ranges from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Each project can take several months of community meetings with additional time for a voting period before advancing to implementation. The 2016-2017 budget for Traffic Calming Projects was \$500,000, which was applied to four Neighborhood Traffic Calming Projects, specifically the Tyler-Iris, Ambrose Dr., Riker St. and Laurel Heights neighborhoods. The next neighborhood that met the traffic calming criteria is on Curtis Street and staff is already working on the Traffic Calming Plan. Other requests are subject to the prioritization strategy.

At the time when staff began prioritization studies, the backlog of Traffic Calming Projects included 12 neighborhoods. Based on past projects, staff estimates that if the annual budget were to remain \$500,000 for 2018-2019, funding would be available for three Neighborhood Traffic Calming Projects. Based on the prioritization scoring from the approved criteria, staff is recommending Traffic Calming Improvement Projects be considered in the order shown in the following table for 2018-2019. Once the first three projects are completed and final costs are known, and if remaining resources are available, staff will work on the next highest scoring project until the budget is depleted. Once the allotted budget has been depleted, the backlogged Traffic Calming Petitions will be held until resources become available. A re-prioritization study will be conducted annually that will include all existing and new requests received. Existing projects may shift up or down on the prioritization list depending on the scores of new traffic calming requests.

Rank	Neighborhood	Score
1	Chaparral St / Maryal Dr	80
2*	Cherokee Dr / Adams St	78
3**	Nacional St	61
4	Ramona Ave	51
5	Mendocino Dr / Placer Way / Westminster Dr	41
6	Kittery St / Snug Harbor	39
7	Osage Dr	39
8	Marion Ave	29
9	Kilbreth Avenue	29
10	Cambrian Drive	28
11	Del Monte Ave	27
12	Buckhorn Dr	26

*No Petition

**Re-study

The Chaparral St. Neighborhood submitted a petition in September 2017. Staff collected traffic data and determined the speeds and volumes were high in this area. Additionally, major pedestrian generators are located in the vicinity such as North Salinas High School, Natividad Park, and El Gabilan Elementary School. Collision reports in this area also significantly contributed to the high prioritization scoring.

The Cherokee Dr. and Adams St. neighborhood never received a petition from the community. Because of the numerous reports received from residents in this area, staff determined there was significant demand to study the area without receiving a petition. The Salinas Neighborhood Traffic Management Program allows for collection of traffic data on the identified streets to precede the neighborhood petition, which can occur during plan development. However, staff typically requests a neighborhood petition prior to the collection of traffic data. The results of the Cherokee Dr. and Adams St. neighborhood traffic study indicated that both traffic volumes and speeds were relatively high.

The Nacional St. neighborhood was one the first neighborhoods to receive a traffic calming treatment. Staff studied the area after the original implementation of traffic calming features. The study indicated that speeds and volumes had decreased significantly. However, since the original implementation and after-study, the neighborhood has requested more traffic calming. Staff has collected traffic data on a second occasion after the initial traffic calming treatments were installed. The second study concluded that traffic speeds are relatively high again. Seasonal variations in traffic patterns and other outside influencing factors such as the Hartnell College class schedule can likely be attributed to the variations in traffic data. Nevertheless, the second study concluded the vehicular speeds are high. With the additional considerations of the prioritization methodology (near school, geometrics), the street places third on the prioritization recommendations.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its February 8, 2018 meeting. The Commission voted 7-0 to recommend to the City Council for approval.

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 City's Traffic Calming Policy supports Council goals of a safe, livable community.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Based on the cost of past projects, staff estimates that the Traffic Calming Program budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year will be \$500,000. If so, funding would be available for at least three neighborhood traffic calming projects. Once the first three projects are completed and final costs are known, and if remaining resources are available, staff will work on the next highest scoring project until the budget is depleted. For program sustainability in future fiscal years, a re-prioritization study will be conducted annually that will include all existing and new requests received; and staff will make prioritization recommendations based on anticipated available funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Neighborhood Traffic Calming Scoring Worksheets
Neighborhood Traffic Studies
NTMP Manual
Letter from Resident