

**REPORT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL**
City of Salinas, California

DATE: October 18, 2016

FROM: Gary Petersen, Public Works Director

THROUGH: Frank Aguayo, Acting City Engineer

BY: James Serrano, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: **NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLANS**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a Resolution establishing neighborhood traffic calming plans supported by residents and direct staff to pursue implementation.

DISCUSSION:

In October 2009, the City Council adopted the City's Traffic Calming Policy, in order to address neighborhood traffic concerns. The 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 policy also provided the process for consideration of projects under the Traffic Calming Program which is important for securing support from residents of a neighborhood who would be affected by traffic calming implementation.

Today, staff will present the traffic calming plans developed from work at three neighborhoods and staff makes the recommendation for approval of these plans for implementation.

Background

Traffic calming requests generally come in two categories: 1) speeding concerns; and 2) traffic volume concerns. It is important to note that traffic calming requests almost always come from residential areas, that is, from residents who live on streets where residential uses (homes, apartments) are on either or both sides of a city street. Streets that function as local or residential streets are generally 2-lane streets, with one lane each for each direction of travel. In all three neighborhoods, the plans were developed to address speeding concerns. Since speeding is the traffic problem at these neighborhoods, the recommended and most effective solution for all areas generally includes the installation of speed cushions (rubberized speed humps). The cushions are spaced to keep speeds under control and consistent through a corridor. Staff will provide a discussion of the plan recommendations.

Staff will also review the required support vote as established by the City's traffic calming policy. Staff's recommendation for which plans move forward at this time is based on the residents showing of support for their neighborhood plans.

Monte Bella Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

Construction of the Monte Bella Subdivision began in the early 2000's and it was the first subdivision designed that included traffic calming tools in the form of curb extensions or bulb-outs. However, within a few years of development, staff received concerns from residents concerned about speeding along Monte Bella Boulevard. Speed studies conducted by the City confirmed speeding along Monte Bella Boulevard. In 2011, the City responded with a striped centerline on Monte Bella Boulevard as part of a street resurfacing project. The added delineation was designed to keep drivers on their appropriate lanes and in conjunction with existing curb extensions would provide a narrowing effect on the roadway. Radar Speed Feedback signs were also deployed on Monte Bella Boulevard to support the traffic calming measures. Post project speed studies conducted later indicate that speeds decreased in some segments but remained high at other areas, particularly in street segments where homes were not built yet.

The City met with residents in 2014 on a host of issues among which including park use, effects of adjacent agriculture use, and traffic. Traffic staff met separately with residents in the Fall of 2014 and heard concerns of speeding not only on Monte Boulevard but around Monte Bella Park, Freedom Parkway and along the adjacent streets near the elementary school. City staff sought funding to be able to address the residents' concerns using other tools in the City's Traffic Calming Policy.

In 2015, traffic staff hired Kimley-Horn transportation consultants to develop a comprehensive plan for the Monte Bella Subdivision which included striping and the use of speed cushions, which are most effective to address speed issues. The neighborhood traffic calming plan was brought to residents at two community meetings, on October 2015 and then again in December 2015 in which residents provided input to the neighborhood plan. In May 2016, following the process outlined by the City's traffic calming policy, the plan was subject to the support vote requirement wherein residents cast their ballots for the plan developed with resident input. The support vote was not met.

Staff held one more community meeting to discuss the neighborhood plan in July 2016, where modifications to the plan were made in discussion with residents. The revision separated the striping improvements from the traffic calming plan and retained the speed cushions. The striping improvements could be implemented separately with a street maintenance project that would still provide some measure of encouraging slower speeds. Residents were asked to vote one more time on the revised plan in August which contained only the speed cushions requested by residents at neighborhood meetings. The support vote was again not met. Since the support criteria was not met, staff cannot recommend the implementation of the revised neighborhood traffic calming plan for Monte Bella.

The striping improvements will be implemented along with a street maintenance project. The work will be implemented using the City's Job Order Contract program.

Rosarita Drive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

Traffic staff worked with residents on Rosarita Drive following a petition submitted by residents. Traffic studies confirmed speeding issues on Rosarita Drive. Staff met with residents at two meetings, in June 2016 and in July 2016 to develop the community plan. At the July 2016 meeting, a segment of Granada Avenue was added as requested by residents of Granada Avenue. Residents accepted the proposal from Granada Avenue, but requested no more changes in order to advance the support vote

process. The support requirement as prescribed by the City Traffic Calming Policy was met by the community. Staff recommends the implementation of the revised Rosarita Drive neighborhood traffic calming plan.

The total cost for implementation of the Rosarita Drive Traffic Calming Plan is \$32,018. There are sufficient funds in this year's Traffic Calming budget.

Little River Drive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

Traffic staff received the initial request in 2014 regarding speeding through the neighborhood. The resulting traffic study confirmed speeding through Little River Drive. Staff prescribed center line striping along the curves on Little River and provided supplemental speed limit signs. A community meeting was attended by traffic staff in the same year that included other neighborhood concerns, including traffic concerns in other areas of the neighborhood. Staff developed a neighborhood plan for Little River, but was concerned that the traffic problems would move to other streets in the community, increasing impacts. Staff discussed the potential concerns of scope with neighborhood representatives who pressed staff to move forward. The neighborhood traffic calming plan was developed and presented to Little River residents in June 2016 and the plan showed strong support from residents, although some concerns were expressed and revisions to the plan were suggested.

Staff returned with the revised plan to the community in July 2016, where minor changes were made. In August, the neighborhood met the support vote requirement as prescribed by the City's Traffic Calming Policy. Staff is therefore recommending implementation of the Little River neighborhood traffic calming plan.

The total cost for implementation of the Little River Drive Traffic Calming Plan is \$58,773. There are sufficient funds in this year's Traffic Calming budget.

Request for approval for the direct purchase of speed cushions to implement plans.

All work to implement the neighborhood plans, including materials and labor, were initially planned to be accomplished using the City's Job Order Contracting Program (JOC). However, staff estimated that significant savings could be made if the City purchased the speed cushions directly and furnished them to the contractor. This change would allow the implementation of these plans to be within the budget. Staff therefore also requests the approval of a direct purchase of these speed cushions from Traffic Logix for \$56,791. Traffic Logix specializes in traffic calming devices particularly with modular rubberized solutions for speed humps and speed cushions which provides Cities alternatives to asphalt installations of traffic control devices. There are no local providers for these speed cushions.

Traffic and Transportation Commission Consideration

The Traffic and Transportation Commission considered the traffic calming plans at its September 8, 2016 meeting and recommended the approval of the Rosarita Drive and Little River Drive neighborhood traffic calming plans which received supported by residents in accordance with the City's traffic calming policy with a 5-0 vote.

ISSUE:

The City Council is requested to approve the following neighborhood traffic calming plans that were supported by residents:

1. Rosarita Drive neighborhood traffic calming plan; and
2. Little River Drive neighborhood traffic calming plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal Year 2016-17 is the first year the City had set aside a budget for traffic calming. Total cost of both traffic calming plans is \$90,791. There are sufficient funds in the City's Traffic Calming CIP (No. 9163).

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Residents have spent time with staff developing their community plans and also worked with each other to create support for these plans. With the show of support from their community, they would like to see a swift implementation to address the speeding issues in their neighborhoods.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

1. Council may decide not to approve the traffic calming plans or revise them. This is not recommended as the process to develop the plans and secure resident support followed that established in the City policy.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

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

CONCLUSIONS:

Council is requested to consider approval of the neighborhood traffic calming plans for Rosarita Drive and Little River Drive that were developed in accordance with the City's policy and which met the support requirements of said policy; and furthermore approve the direct purchase of speed cushions from Traffic Logix in the amount of \$56,791 under the City's Traffic Calming CIP 9163.

Back Up Pages:
Resolution
Monte Bella Neighborhood Plan
Rosarita Drive Neighborhood Plan
Little River Drive Neighborhood Plan