

REPORT TO THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

City of Salinas, California

DATE: September 8, 2016

FROM: Robert C. Russell, P.E., City Engineer

BY: James Serrano, Transportation Manager

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLANS

RECOMMENDATION:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to recommend to the City Council the approval for implementation of traffic calming plans supported by residents.

DISCUSSION:

At its January 2016 meeting, the Traffic and Transportation Commission received an updated presentation on the City's Traffic Calming Policy, which was approved by the City Council on October 2009 in order to address neighborhood traffic concerns. The reasons for a traffic calming policy, the process, the tools and the required support from affected residents were discussed in preparation for the results of staff's work with traffic calming requests.

Today, staff will present the traffic calming plans developed from work at three neighborhoods in Salinas and staff will make the recommendation to the Traffic and Transportation Commission for two plans to be recommended for approval by the City Council for implementation.

Background

Traffic calming requests generally come in two categories: 1) speeding concerns; 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 include 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 striped a 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 that were deployed. 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 ag 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 first 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. Residents were asked to vote one more time on the revised plan in August. The support vote was not met again. Since the support criteria was not met, staff can not recommend the implementation of the revised neighborhood traffic calming plan for Monte Bella.

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 Street was added as requested by residents of Granada Avenue. Residents accepted the proposal from Granada Street 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.

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

stripping along the curves on Little River and provide 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 that 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.

ISSUE:

The Commission is requested to recommend to City Council the approval of 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.

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.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

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

CONCLUSIONS:

The Traffic and Transportation Commission is requested to recommend to City Council approval of the neighborhood traffic calming plans recommended in this report that met the support requirements of the City's Traffic Calming Policy.

Distribution:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

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