



## **CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

**FROM:** JAMES SERRANO, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER

**TITLE:** NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN  
LAUREL PARK AND SHERWOOD GARDENS

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution regarding the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan for Laurel Park-Sherwood Gardens and directing staff to pursue implementation.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Residents of Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens spent time with staff developing their neighborhood's traffic calming plan. In accordance with City policy, the neighborhood met the required support requirements. Staff therefore recommends approval and implementation of the neighborhood traffic-calming plan.

### BACKGROUND:

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 provides a process for consideration of projects under the Traffic Calming Program that includes a process for securing support from residents of the neighborhood who are ultimately affected by traffic calming implementation.

### DISCUSSION:

Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens are neighborhoods generally west of the Rodeo Grounds, bounded by North Main Street in the east and US 101 in the west. Many Salinas residents would be familiar with the main streets in the neighborhood, Iris Drive and Tyler Street which connect Laurel Drive to North Main Streets, two of the city's busiest arterial streets. This connection to these arterial streets make the neighborhood streets susceptible to cut-through traffic. Traffic studies conducted in fall 2016 confirm a large amount of cut-through traffic through the neighborhood. Speed surveys also confirm high speeds through neighborhood streets. The studies confirm that the neighborhood meets the criteria for traffic calming.

Staff met with residents of the Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens community at three meetings: in August 2016, in December 2016 and in March 2017, which provided input for development of the neighborhood traffic-calming plan.

Staff proposed a traffic-calming plan that includes the use of speed cushions, centerline striping and traffic circles. The speed cushions are spaced to keep speeds under control and consistent through a corridor. Traffic circles are speed-reducing tools placed at intersections to slow vehicle speeds as well as provide an overall traffic calming effect along the entire street corridor. In addition, staff prescribed striping on selected streets to narrow the travel lanes for vehicles, thereby inducing drivers to lower their speeds.

In April 2017, the neighborhood met the support vote requirement as prescribed by the City's Traffic Calming Policy. Staff is therefore recommending implementation of the Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens neighborhood traffic-calming plan.

#### Traffic and Transportation Commission

The neighborhood traffic-calming plan was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its April 2017 meeting and the Commission unanimously recommended approval and implementation of the neighborhood traffic-calming plan for Sherwood Gardens and Laurel Park.

#### 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:

The Engineer's estimate for the implementation (construction) of the Laurel Park/Sherwood Gardens traffic-calming plan is \$150,000. Staff has proposed a budget of \$500,000 in measure X funds for FY 2017-18 to cover anticipated costs for upcoming neighborhood traffic calming projects. If the budget is approved, funds will be available to complete the neighborhood traffic-calming plan by the end of November 2017.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (N.C.S.)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SALINAS CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR THE LAUREL PARK AND  
SHERWOOD GARDENS NEIGHBORHOODS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted the City's Traffic Calming Policy at its October 6, 2009 meeting (Resolution No. 19764) which outlined a process for consideration of traffic calming requests from the community; and

**WHEREAS**, following the process set by said policy, staff worked with residents at the affected neighborhoods, to develop a traffic calming plan and determine support for said plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Salinas has determined that the implementing the traffic calming plan 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

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALINAS** that the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan for the Laurel Park and Sherwood Gardens neighborhoods proposed through this Resolution is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City staff is hereby authorized and directed to proceed with implementation to fully effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2017, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**APPROVED:**

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Joe Gunter, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk