



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

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**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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

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**TITLE:** 2021-2022 PRIORITIZATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

A motion to approve a Resolution approving the priority traffic calming projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year traffic calming program and close out all neighborhoods requesting traffic calming projects that scored less than 40 out of 100.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the Council approved traffic calming prioritization criteria, staff recommends City Council approve a Resolution approving the priority traffic calming projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year traffic calming program and close out all neighborhoods requesting traffic calming projects that scored less than 40 out of 100.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

As of December 31, 2020, the number of traffic calming petitions submitted to the City includes 46 neighborhoods. The City adopted a priority rating system based on equitable metrics to rank requests for traffic calming projects based on identified needs and prioritizes neighborhoods accordingly. Staff is recommending City Council approve the prioritization of projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year traffic calming program. Staff estimates that the two highest scoring traffic calming requests can be delivered within the available budget. Once the first two 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.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City receives numerous requests from residents regarding traffic related concerns. Many concerns relate to driver behavior in the form of speeding or cut-through traffic on residential streets. In 2009, Salinas adopted the Neighborhood Traffic Management 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 the first completed traffic calming projects on Rosarita Drive

and Little River Drive, requests for traffic calming projects have been rapidly increasing. The city originally evaluated requests as they are received but requests for traffic calming projects began to exceed available resources. In 2017, the City developed a priority rating system based on equitable metrics to rank requests for traffic calming projects based on identified needs and prioritize neighborhoods accordingly. The prioritization criteria was recommended by the Traffic and Transportation Commission and ultimately approved by City Council (Resolution No. 21291).

Staff estimates the average cost of a neighborhood traffic calming project typically ranges \$70,000 to \$200,000. The project can take several months of community meetings with additional time for a voting period before advancing to implementation. The 2019-2020 budget for traffic calming projects was \$500,000, which was distributed to three neighborhood traffic calming projects, specifically Villa Street, Kittery Street/Snug Harbor, and First Avenue. Once the first three neighborhoods were completed staff was able to utilize remaining funds for the next highest priority, Geil Street, currently in progress.

As of December 31, 2020, the backlog of traffic calming projects includes 46 neighborhoods. Based on past projects, staff estimates with the current budget of \$200,000, funding would be available to at least two neighborhood traffic calming projects. Based on the prioritization scoring from the approved criteria, staff is recommending traffic calming improvement projects to be considered in the order shown in the following table for 2021-2022 and continued on Attachment 1. Once the first two 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 or until the next re-prioritization recommendation.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>1</b>	E Bolivar Street	73
<b>2</b>	Madrid Street	63
<b>3</b>	Casentini Street	61
<b>4</b>	Iverson Street	61
<b>5</b>	West Acacia Street	59
<b>6</b>	Paseo Grande	50
<b>7</b>	La Mesa Drive	46
<b>8</b>	Rico Street	44
<b>9</b>	Swaner Avenue	43
<b>10</b>	Calaveras Drive	42
<b>11</b>	Mendocino Drive	41
<b>12</b>	Victor Street	41

*\*Streets with equal scores rank the highest collision history first*

For all other neighborhoods requesting traffic calming projects, which scored less than 40 out of 100, staff recommends closing out the request. The traffic studies found that these neighborhoods have relatively low speeds, volumes and collision history when compared to other neighborhoods. Given the abundance of traffic calming requests in the City it is reasonably foreseeable that these neighborhoods will not be prioritized for traffic calming in the foreseeable future. Therefore, staff recommends that requests for traffic calming projects be closed and the petitioners notified.

### TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

The 2021-2022 prioritization of traffic calming projects was presented to the Traffic and Transportation Commission at its September 9, 2021 meeting for review and feedback. The Commission voted 6-0 to recommend to City Council to approve a resolution approving the top two highest scoring traffic calming requests as the priority projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year traffic calming program.

### CEQA CONSIDERATION:

**Not a Project.** The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The 2021-2022 Prioritization of Traffic Calming Projects supports the Council goal of “Investment Strategies/Risk Management”.

### DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public works staff developed the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Manual with feedback from the Salinas Fire Department. Public works staff consulted with the Salinas Fire Department on the recommendation of the Traffic Calming Prioritization. Staff also coordinates with the Salinas Police Department if traffic calming enforcement assistance is necessary.

### FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There will be no impact to the General Fund. The 21/22 adopted CIP budget for CIP 9163, “Traffic Calming Improvements” is \$200,000 in Measure X funds. Measure X is a voter approved sales tax measure for transportation safety and maintenance projects. Staff estimates the top two priority neighborhoods can be delivered within the available budget. Staff will work until funds are depleted. If the first two neighborhoods can be 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 or until the next re-prioritization recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Attachment 1: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Scoring Master List

Attachment 2: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Scoring Worksheets

Attachment 3: Neighborhood Traffic Studies

Attachment 4: Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Manual