

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****April 16, 2024**

Page 1 of 4

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide information about the City's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

Background

The goal of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is to provide safety countermeasures, primarily speed cushions and speed tables, on local neighborhood streets. These devices can reduce travel speeds approximately 20 - 25 percent. Traffic calming is targeted to one- or two-lane low-volume residential streets and collectors with posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or less. Traffic calming is not recommended for arterials, roadways that accommodate travel exceeding 4,000 vehicles per day, or as a strategy to address street racing due to safety and congestion considerations.

Historically, "full width" asphalt speed humps were the primary traffic calming device implemented by Transportation and Public Works (TPW) although speed tables, diverters, and chicanes were also deployed. However, the department discontinued installation in 2014 due to emergency response time and equipment impacts to Police and Fire vehicles, maintenance considerations, and concerns about damage to residents' vehicles. Driver feedback signs have also been used as a traffic calming tool to increase driver awareness and impact neighborhood speeds.

TPW, however, continued to receive complaints for speeding even in areas where driver feedback signs had been employed. In an effort to be responsive to residents' concerns, TPW worked on alternatives to those traffic calming techniques which had caused concerns and briefed the Mobility: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in January, 2022, on the forthcoming Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program using new devices known as speed cushions. A speed cushion is a modified speed hump design that incorporates wheel cutouts for emergency vehicle access. Cushions are typically installed in a series and are made of a durable rubber material with standard traffic markings (see Attachment A). Speed tables, which often serve a dual purpose as raised crosswalks, have remained in use in limited situations but are also now constructed out of the durable rubber instead of asphalt.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program was reinstated in March, 2022, and the first installations of speed cushions were completed in Summer 2023. Due to their design and installation protocol, speed cushions provide improved emergency response times in comparison to speed humps, and less damage to emergency and private vehicles. Driver feedback signs are still deployed, but they are targeted for temporary, short-term use to increase driver awareness and to supplement data collection efforts.

The program has proven popular. TPW has received 124 traffic calming applications since March 2022. Completed petition forms have been received and speed cushions have been installed or are planned for installation at 20 locations.

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council
April 16, 2024

Page 2 of 4


SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CD	Neighborhood	Street
2	North Side	Clinton Ave (W Central Ave to NW 14th St)
2	Diamond Hill-Jarvis	N Elm St (NE 30 th St to E Long Ave)
3	Overton Park	Ranch View Rd (S Hulen St to Overton Park Dr W)
3	Broadstone @ Trinity Apartments	Rogers Rd (Riverfront to Collinsworth)
4	Park Glen	Blue Water Lake Dr (Park Vista Blvd to Rogue River Trl)
6	Summer Creek Ranch	Rush River (Nightingale Dr to Chaparral Creek Dr)
6	Panther Heights	Rancho Verde Pkwy (Summer Creek to W Cleburne Rd)
7	Arlington Heights	Lafayette Ave (Tremont to Clover) Clover Ln (Calmont to Birchman) Clover Ln (El Campo Ave to Bryce Ave)
7	Park Dr	Park Dr (9600 Park Dr to 5600 Park Dr)
7	West Fork Ranch	Horseman Rd (Holstein Way to Angein Way)
8	Meadowcreek South	Gettysburg Ln (Charleston to Gatlinburg)
10	Parks at Willow Ridge	Basket Willow (Mesa Crest Dr to Wagley Robertson Rd)
10	Sunset Hills	Sunset Hills Dr (Delemere Dr to Lamberton Terr)
10	Seventeen Lakes	Seventeen Lakes Blvd (Wild Duck to Canvasback) Wilderness Pass (Green Teal to Martin Creek) Buckwater Way (north of Round Valley)
11	Race St	Race St (Sylvania Ave to Chandler Dr)
11	Carter Riverside	Primrose Ave (Gwynne to Eagle)

Application Process

Residents may submit traffic calming requests through the MyFortWorth App or the Call Center at (817) 392-1234 to receive a program application. The application may also be accessed on the TPW webpage. Once an application is received, TPW staff contacts applicants to discuss their request and confirm eligibility of a roadway for traffic calming. Speed data collection is performed and installation of traffic calming countermeasures is recommended when the 85th percentile speed is five miles per hour or more over the posted or prima facie speed limit. TPW provides the applicant with a consent form, photographic examples of speed cushions or tables, and a map showing proposed placement. The consent form includes property owner information populated from the Tarrant Appraisal District database. The applicant is responsible for securing two-thirds property owner support within the impacted block and 100% support of owners directly impacted by proposed placement. Installation takes approximately three to four months from the date of TPW's receipt of a completed consent form.

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****April 16, 2024**

Page 3 of 4

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM OVERVIEW**Program Improvements*****TPW Website***

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming webpage will be updated with detailed information about the application process, data collection, and implementation timelines.

Engineering Specifications

TPW is finalizing engineering specifications that will be used for routine replacement of asphalt speed humps with rubber speed cushions as part of Neighborhood Streets resurfacing and Water Department projects. TPW performed an asset inventory in 2021 which confirmed that there are approximately 1,000 speed humps in need of replacement over time. Third-party contractors will be used for installation.

Before and After Studies

TPW will perform before and after evaluations to document whether traffic calming installations are meeting the intended goal of speed reduction as well as residents' expectations for performance.

Program Promotion

Residents are routinely informed about the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program when they submit speeding related customer service requests, and a *City News* article was published in August 2023 to promote the program when the first installations of request-based speed cushions were complete. Proactive promotion of the program will be incorporated into forthcoming public outreach for the Moving a Million Master Transportation Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan. Outreach will include three rounds of public open houses in each council district over the 18-month planning period.

For questions or concerns, please contact Chelsea St. Louis, TPW Sr. Capital Projects Officer at Chelsea.St.Louis@fortworthtexas.gov.

David Cooke
City Manager



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

April 16, 2024

Page 4 of 4

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Attachment A

Example: Speed Cushion



Example: Speed Table

