



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Finance Committee**

**From:** **Cynthia Fletcher**  
**Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services**

**Meeting Date:** **November 23, 2020**

**Subject:** **Report IPSTR20-032**  
**Update on Development of a Traffic Calming Policy and**  
**Completion of Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Studies**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update on the Traffic Calming Policy and Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Studies.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report IPSTR20-032, dated November 23, 2020, of the Commissioner, Infrastructure and Planning Services as follows:

That Report IPSTR20-032 be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications associated with receiving this report.

The draft 2021 Capital Budget includes a request for \$200,000 to fund the implementation of initial traffic calming measures as per the recommendations of the study. Upon completion of the study costs will be refined for implementation of more permanent recommendations in all five study areas for consideration by Council. If any additional funding is required, beyond the 2021 requested allocation, funds will be requested in subsequent capital budgets.

## **Background**

City Council at its meeting of October 28, 2019, passed the following motion:

“That staff report back to Council prior to the 2021 budget review process on traffic calming measures such as, but not limited to, Bollards, Humps, Intersection Bulbs, Rumble Strips, Painting Techniques, in Residential Neighbourhoods, and a plan to implement them in at least 5 neighbourhoods, one in each ward of the City, in 2021”

Traffic calming measures are usually applied in locations experiencing excessive vehicle speed and/or with high volumes of shortcutting traffic. Traffic calming plans seek to alter the street in such a way as to reduce vehicle speeds, discourage shortcutting, minimize conflicts between street users, and improve the neighbourhood environment.

The City of Peterborough currently does not have a formal policy regarding traffic calming. In 2015, in response to a number of requests for traffic calming, staff surveyed twelve municipalities and identified a number of common criteria typically used to evaluate requests for traffic calming measures. Using this information, an internal screening process was developed to evaluate traffic calming requests and this process has been used since 2016.

As part of Report USDIR18-002, the scope of the planned City-Wide Traffic Operations Study was increased to include the development of a traffic calming policy and implementation process, along with an additional focus on arterial road operational improvement plans. With the approval of the October 28, 2019 resolution from the Council, the Traffic Calming portion of this study was separated from the larger Traffic Operations Review project.

The Traffic Calming project has three main components:

- 1) Development of a formal Traffic Calming Policy that will cover items such as conditions that warrant a formal traffic calming study, the applicability of traffic calming for various categories of roadway, the process for residents to request a study and for staff to respond to requests for traffic calming, the neighbourhood consultation process, and the degree of neighbourhood support that should be required to move forward with any traffic calming plan.
- 2) Development of Traffic Calming "Tool Kit", which is essentially a listing and description of various traffic calming devices and applications that have been used in other jurisdictions and might be considered for use in Peterborough. The tool kit also summarizes the types of applications the devices should be used for, relative cost, effectiveness, maintenance issues, emergency access issues etc. This information is intended to assist staff and help residents understand the types of solutions that may/may not work in specific neighbourhoods.
- 3) Completion of Traffic Calming Studies in five neighbourhoods (one in each Ward) to pilot the new processes, the approach to neighbourhood public engagement, and tools/devices recommended. This part of the project responds to Council's October 2019 direction.

## **Project Status Update**

Report IPSTR20-011 awarded the Traffic Calming study project to the consulting team of Paradigm Transportation Solutions. LURA Consulting, a firm specializing in public engagement activities, is supporting Paradigm in this project. The consultants commenced the work on the project in June.

Work on all three components of the project is progressing, and the consulting team is now preparing for the second stage (workshop-2) of the neighbourhood consultation process in each of the five study areas.

The key project milestones completed up to October 2020 are illustrated below:

### **Project Commencement**

At the outset of the study the consulting team developed identifiers and an overall brand for the project - 'Calm Streets Ptbo'. In addition to the overall project brand, the branding strategy and logos have extended to each of the five Area Specific Neighbourhoods. These are intended to generate local awareness and interest in the study and encourage residents living within each the neighbourhoods to participate.

This branding strategy is intended to extend to future projects and has potential to become the overall brand for a multi-year traffic calming program for the City.

## **Development of a Traffic Calming Policy**

The consulting team has developed a working draft of a new traffic calming policy framework. The policy covers the process for submitting future traffic calming requests, technical warrants, screening process to initiate a study, the various stages of community engagement activities, and implementation strategy. The outcome of the five-neighbourhood traffic calming studies in phase 1 will be used to refine the final policy framework for presentation to Council. The anticipated timeline for this report is first quarter of 2021.

## **Development of Traffic Calming Tool-kit**

The consulting team researched and shortlisted a series of potential traffic calming measures that have been used in other jurisdictions and may be considered for implementation in Peterborough.

A technical stakeholder group including staff from Engineering, Operations & Maintenance, Accessibility, Police, Fire, Transit, Parking, and Insurance & Risk Management were consulted to solicit feedback on technical, operational and risk-related concerns regarding the various shortlisted traffic calming measures and applicability. Stakeholders also endorsed the need to coordinate between the departments during the planning stage of future neighbourhood traffic calming studies.

## **Traffic Calming Studies in Five Neighbourhoods- Phase 1**

Traffic Calming studies are underway for the following five neighbourhoods.

Otonabee (Ward -1):	Sherburne Street, Morrow Street, Montgomery Street neighbourhood
Monaghan (Ward -2):	Westridge Boulevard, Cherryhill Road and neighbourhood
Town (Ward -3):	Romaine Street and neighbourhood
Ashburnham (Ward -4):	Auburn Street, Dunlop Street and neighbourhood
Northcrest (Ward -5):	Franklin Drive and neighbourhood

These neighbourhoods were selected prior to the beginning of this project based on requests that had been received from residents for area traffic calming reviews. Selecting the neighbourhoods in advance allowed for the collection of baseline traffic data in advance of starting the project, given the timeline requested for completion of the 5 neighbourhood studies. With the COVID-19 restrictions imposed in the spring, the collection of traffic data at that time would not have been representative of typical conditions.

The draft 2021 Capital Budget includes \$200,000 for a proposed project to provide funding for the implementation of the recommended traffic calming measures in the five neighbourhoods. This is intended to be a multi-year program that will allow for future neighbourhood traffic calming projects to be funded and implemented beyond 2021, subject to annual budget approval.

Before implementing permanent physical traffic calming measures, temporary measures may be implemented for an initial evaluation period before construction of permanent on-street physical measures. The final Traffic Calming Policy will provide recommendations around the process for evaluation of any temporary measures put in place, including opportunities for additional feedback from residents.

### **Community Engagement**

Community engagement is an important aspect of this project and has been undertaken at both a broad City-wide level, and with targeted engagement in each of the five neighbourhoods where detailed traffic calming plans are being developed in Phase 1. With the restrictions imposed on public gatherings, new forms of community engagement had to be implemented on this project. In order to reach out to the maximum number of residents in the neighbourhood several engagement strategies have been used, including:

- **Door to door mail drop:** A copy of the Notice of Study Commencement which includes a short project background and information about engagement opportunities and the project webpage were distributed to all residents within the five study areas.
- **Online Engagement:** The City launched a project webpage on the [www.connectPtbo.ca](http://www.connectPtbo.ca) engagement platform. The website presents a detailed overview of the project scope, the process, latest engagement opportunities, surveys, information about project milestones, and contact information for the project team. Updates about the project and information about engagement events are regularly posted on City's social media sites as well. As of October 27, 2020, there have been approximately 1,100 visits to the Calm Streets PTBO project page.
- **Community Ambassador:** A Community Ambassador was identified from each of the five neighbourhoods. The ambassadors were engaged by the consulting team to make connections with individuals and families in each of the neighbourhoods to share information and gather feedback about traffic calming concerns in the study area. In advance of the first round of neighbourhood workshops the ambassadors displayed and distributed promotional materials including 100 posters, 48 sidewalk stickers and 500 project business cards within the neighbourhoods. Ambassadors also connected with individual residents and encouraged them to participate in the workshops.

- Online Survey: Residents were invited to participate in an online survey to provide feedback regarding traffic concerns in their neighbourhood and recommend potential solutions to mitigate traffic concerns. The survey was open from August to October on the project web page [www.connectptbo.ca/trafficcalming](http://www.connectptbo.ca/trafficcalming) and generated 157 responses.

The study includes a number of neighbourhood engagement events including two neighbourhood focused workshops, which were hosted using an online interactive format. At the first series of workshops, held in October, residents were introduced to the project and local traffic issues were discussed along with potential traffic calming measures that could be used for their neighbourhood streets.

At the follow-up workshop, scheduled for early December, the consulting team will present preliminary traffic calming plans to the residents and solicit their feedback prior to finalizing recommendations to present to Council in early 2021.

### **Timelines and Next Steps**

Following the completion of the second round of neighbourhood workshops in the five study areas, the consulting team will assemble the study area recommendations and prepare final drafts of the Traffic Calming Policy and Toolkit for approval by Council in early 2021.

Following Council approval, detailed plans will be prepared for each neighbourhood to allow for implementation in 2021. Depending on the nature of the final recommendations for each neighbourhood the improvements may include new signing, pavement marking treatments, or physical measures to reconfigure the roads or sidewalks. In some neighborhoods where physical changes are being recommended, the use of temporary measures may be considered as a first phase of implementation to test out the changes prior to investing in physical alterations or construction.

### **Summary**

The Traffic Calming Project includes the development of a traffic calming tool-kit, a city-wide traffic calming policy to guide staff in addressing future requests for traffic calming and the development of traffic calming plans for five neighbourhoods (one in each ward).

Public consultation workshops have occurred in each identified neighbourhood to gather input regarding the traffic challenges.

The study team had to develop new forms of community engagement in light of COVID-19 related restrictions and that has resulted in a delay to the original public consultation schedule envisioned at the outset of the study.

Following the final round of neighbourhood workshops in December 2020, a future report seeking approval for the traffic calming policy, a traffic calming tool-kit and traffic calming plans for the five neighbourhoods is anticipated to be presented to Council in early 2021. A capital budget request of \$200,000 has been included in the draft 2021 budget, which if approved, will allow for the implementation of traffic calming measures in each of the five neighbourhoods in 2021.

Submitted by,

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