

DATE OF MEETING NOVEMBER 27, 2023

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SUBJECT TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with information on the status of current traffic calming projects and to provide funding options for Extension Road traffic calming installation. |

Recommendation

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council approve phasing the construction of Extension Road traffic calming using \$200,000 in the 2023 Financial Plan with the remainder to be identified in 2024.

BACKGROUND

Since the Spring of 2020, there has been a steady increase of requests for traffic calming. Staff have presented four reports to Council on the topic of traffic calming, two reports for information (2020 and 2022), and two reports for decision (2022 and 2023). The reports covered information on how and why traffic calming is used, status updates on the traffic calming projects underway, and funding allocations for the traffic calming budget. At its regular meeting on July 24, 2023, Council advanced Extension Road traffic calming to construction stage. This report offers information about a number of topics germane to traffic calming including an updated transportation website, status of traffic calming requests, and funding options for the construction of traffic calming on Extension Road. |

DISCUSSION

The purpose of traffic calming is to moderate vehicle speeds, enhance pedestrian and other users safety, while avoiding impacts to emergency services response times on existing roads. City Plan contains commitment to Vision Zero, a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Staff have received more than 40 requests for traffic calming since Spring 2020 and have taken several steps in response.

Updates to the Transportation Webpage

The influx of requests necessitated a change to the Transportation website. The webpage dedicated to traffic calming now provides information about Vision Zero, traffic calming tools, frequently asked questions, the evaluation process, status of public requests, and contact information. The webpage for [Traffic Calming](#) is intended to help residents understand City processes and to check the status of their requests.

Status of Traffic Calming Requests

Currently there are 41 locations identified on the traffic calming webpage. See Attachment A for a detailed list. These are compiled into five categories:

- 2 locations in the data collection stage. At this stage, data has just been or will be collected for analysis to decide whether the locations should be advanced to conceptual design.
- 10 locations being considered. The analysis to do (or not do) traffic calming is underway but not complete.
- 4 locations where action has been taken and the outcome is being monitored. This includes Lost Lake Road which is discussed further below.
- 1 project approved for advancement to design, Extension Road. When approved for design, a location then has its own project webpage where the status of the design and implementation is posted. Extension Road is also discussed further below.
- 24 locations where the data did not support the need for traffic calming.

Staff have responded by evaluating each request using the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Guidelines, collecting and analyzing the data, determining next steps, and then letting the residents know the outcome. It takes approximately two years from the request stage to the installation stage. This includes time for dovetailing with budget cycles and conversation with the affected neighbourhoods.

Lost Lake Road

Lost Lake Road is one of the locations where action was taken and the outcome was monitored. The traffic calming features were installed in 2021 which generated some reductions in speed. To achieve better speed management, the installation of more features would be needed. This year, the transportation team sought input from the neighbourhood of Lost Lake Road to find out if the neighbourhood wanted more traffic calming features. We received 52 responses which are summarized below:

- 27% in favour of adding features.
- 73% had concerns and/or disapproved of installing additional features.

Based on this result, we are not planning to install more traffic calming features on Lost Lake Road at this time.

Extension Road

In July, Council approved construction of traffic calming on Extension Road. The detailed design and cost estimate are now complete and the estimate is \$320,000. Funding of \$200,000 is available in the 2023 Financial Plan. This leaves a gap of \$120,000. There are a number of options available to address the gap. Options are presented as follows:

- Staff recommend phasing the project to allow partial work using the 2023 budget. The risks with this approach are: funding may not be available in 2024 so the project would not be completed as originally planned; there may be construction cost escalation during the delay; and/or constructing projects in multiple phases increases procurement and

mobilization costs. To mitigate these risks, the project could be tendered with a phased approach using a single contractor.

- The shortfall could be addressed using Strategic Infrastructure Reserve funds. However, this approach would interfere with the 2024 budget process currently underway and may affect projects currently being planned. Therefore this approach is not recommended by Staff.

Closing

Traffic calming on existing roads continues to be front of mind for residents. In time, Vision Zero strategies and well-planned land use will create an urban environment that offers a safer, healthier, and better connected road network. Staff are taking steps to ensure new developments and capital projects meet or exceed best practises for an equitable mobility system for the community.

OPTIONS

1. That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council approve phasing the construction of Extension Road traffic calming using \$200,000 in the 2023 Financial Plan with the remainder to be identified in 2024.
 - The advantages of this option: 2023 funding would be used and no other projects and programs would be affected.
 - The disadvantages of this option: Project completion would not be guaranteed and costs could escalate during the delay. This risk could be mitigated with specific tendering procedures.
 - Financial Implications: None.
2. That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council allocate \$120,000 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve to cover the estimated shortfall.
 - The advantages of this option: This would allow completion of the project all at once.
 - The disadvantages of this option: The 2024 budgeting process is underway and this consideration would need to be incorporated into the process. This would delay the project and potentially change what works could be completed in 2024.
 - Financial Implications: The Strategic Infrastructure Reserve would be reduced by \$120,000.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The current process and list of projects for traffic calming is now viewable on the city's website at <https://www.nanaimo.ca/transportation-mobility/traffic-calming>.
- Installation of Extension Road traffic calming will proceed in the coming months.
- Vision Zero strategies and well-planned land use will create a safer and healthier city.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Status of Traffic Calming Requests |

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