



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	Nov. 12, 2024
Department:	Public Space and Sustainability
Agenda Section:	Regular
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Stephanie Trueblood, Public Space and Sustainability Manager

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Request for Traffic Calming Measures on Rainey Avenue by Fairview Community Watch

Attachments:

1. Memo and letter from Fairview Community Watch
2. Traffic Study on Rainey Avenue from January 2023
3. Traffic Calming Policy

Summary:

Concerns about speeding and the safety of pedestrians on Rainey Avenue have been expressed by the Fairview community for many years. Rainey Avenue is a town-owned and maintained street with speed limits posted at 25 mph. Several years ago, the town added centerlines to the road in hopes that it would narrow the view corridor and result in less speeding. However, a traffic study conducted in January 2023, after the centerlines were added, shows that 50% of vehicles are still travelling 8 mph or more over the posted speed limit and 15% of vehicles (85% percentile) are travelling at 13 mph or more over the posted speed limit.

Fairview Community Watch developed the Activate! Fairview Active Living Plan in 2021-2022 and has conducted six community workshops regarding traffic calming between February 2023 and May 2024. Results from the community engagement and planning efforts are summarized in the attached memo and letter include the following short-term traffic calming recommendations for Rainey Avenue:

1. Install multiway stop signs and stop bars at the intersection of Rainey Avenue and Torain Street.
2. Install a digital radar speed sign on Rainey Avenue.
3. Install traffic calming measures such as speed bumps on Rainey Avenue.

Results from community engagement and planning efforts include the following long-term traffic calming recommendations for Rainey Avenue:

1. Install a sidewalk along Rainey Avenue connecting the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center to the sidewalk on Torian Street.

The Comprehensive Sustainability Plan includes a recommendation for a sidewalk along Rainey. There is no funding secured or schedule for the sidewalk installation.

The Town of Hillsborough traffic calming policy for residential streets can be found in the Town of Hillsborough Street Manual, Appendix B. The policy includes a procedure whereby residents may petition the town to

incorporate traffic calming devices and systems on town-owned residential streets. The policy requires 65% of residents in the impacted area to sign the petition. Fairview Community Watch will submit the petition to the town board at the meeting.

The memo and letter from Fairview Community Watch asks to the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners to prioritize and fund traffic-calming measures on Rainey Avenue.

Financial impacts:

The costs of traffic calming devices vary by type, so overall project costs are determined by which facilities are selected. Stop signs can be installed for \$300-\$600 per intersection, painted stop bars are roughly \$750 per intersection, paved speed humps are between \$6,000-\$10,000 each, and solar-powered radar signs are about \$5,000 each.

Staff recommendation and comments:

The Public Works Manager and Public Space and Sustainability Manager agree that the traffic data shows that speeding is an ongoing issue along Rainey Avenue and that the installation of centerlines did not significantly help the problem. Additional traffic calming measures seem to be warranted to improve safety especially for pedestrians in the vicinity. The short-term recommendations are aligned with the town's Vision Zero Policy. The long-term recommendation for a sidewalk is aligned with the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan recommendations.

Action requested:

Receive proposal and give direction to staff.