



TO: Millersburg City Council  
VIA: Kevin Kreitman, City Manager  
FROM: Janelle Booth, Assistant City Manager/City Engineer  
DATE: September 3, 2020 for the September 8, 2020 Council Meeting  
SUBJECT: Traffic Calming Program Consideration

Action Requested:

Review of information and direction regarding traffic calming programs.

Discussion:

Staff regularly receive complaints of speeding and requests from residents for stop signs and speed bumps in neighborhoods throughout the City. As residential growth continues, the frequency of these types of complaints and requests has increased. When staff receive a report of a speeding concerns, we inform the Linn County Sheriff Office (LCSO) and request that they pay extra attention to the area. At times, we request the LCSO radar speed trailer be placed in an area of concern.

The majority of the requests for speed bumps and stop signs, are made with the goal of reducing speeds. Although these types of items can have some impact on speeds, they are not always the most effective way to increase safety, and sometimes can have unintended consequences. Although it may appear straightforward on the surface, each situation is unique and needs to be evaluated before a decision is made to select or install a traffic calming measure.

Some communities have Traffic Calming Programs, which allow them to evaluate these requests against defined criteria. Not all requests meet the criteria and qualify as a candidate for a traffic calming measure (based on the City of Albany's criteria, it is unlikely most of our streets would qualify for traffic calming measures). The City of Albany's Traffic Calming Program requires a study to document the extent of each issue and consideration of multiple traffic calming options. It also requires an investment from the neighborhood requesting the traffic calming device(s) to insure the majority of the neighborhood is in support of the request and is willing to participate in the cost of the project.

There are many ways a Traffic Calming Program could be structured, and Albany's is provided as an example. Their program includes an emphasis on neighborhood/community involvement and investment in the program to help insure that the residents are in agreement and are committed to the project. Albany staff have communicated that some of items listed as requirements of the applicant are actually performed by City staff because residents typically do not have the equipment or knowledge to perform the tasks. If Council wishes to

considering implementing a similar program, staff would recommend something less intensive than Albany's approach.

Prior to taking the step of beginning to develop a full-scale traffic calming program, staff recommends Council consideration of purchase or rental of equipment to collect data on speeds and traffic counts. There are some reasonably priced portable systems, which allow data collection as well as displaying vehicle speed feedback to drivers, if desired. Data collection would provide information that would be helpful in determining whether a need exists for traffic calming measures.

Staff would appreciate Council's feedback and direction.

Budget Impact:

This type of program could require a significant amount of time and resources, which could be challenging with current staffing resources available. A more detailed budget impact would be developed if Council directs staff to move forward with development of a program.

Attachment(s):

- City of Albany traffic calming program information