



City of
Kelowna

Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Program - Policy 300 Workshop

January 20, 2025

Purpose of the Workshop

- **Objective:** To review and discuss proposed updates to the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Program Policy – Policy 300.
- **Key Focus Areas:**
 - Clarify the purpose and application of traffic calming measures.
 - Outline the steps and key evaluation criteria in the current traffic calming process.
 - Present updates to the draft policy.
 - Seek Council feedback on policy updates and strategic direction.

What is Traffic Calming?

Definition: Traffic calming means various measures aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of vehicular traffic in residential areas, such as speeding and shortcutting.

Goals:

- Enhance safety for all road users.
- Improve the livability of residential streets.
- Support active transportation.



Common Traffic Calming Measures

- **Vertical Deflections:** Speed humps, speed cushions, speed tables, raised crosswalks.
- **Horizontal Deflections:** Traffic circles, chicanes.
- **Road Narrowing:** Lane narrowing, curb extensions, median islands.
- **Access Restrictions:** Diverters, partial closures, medians



Speed Cushions



Chicane



Lane Narrowing Barriers



Partial Closure

Benefits of Traffic Calming

- ▶ **Safety:** Reduces vehicle speeds and collision risks.
- ▶ **Vehicle volume reduction:** Cut through traffic reduction.
- ▶ **Comfort:** Creates more welcoming environments for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and other active modes.
- ▶ **Livability:** Typically decreases traffic noise and emissions.



Traffic Calming: Step-by-Step Process

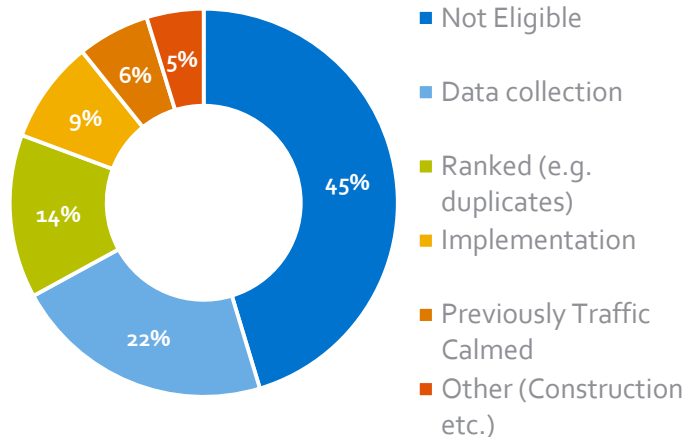
Receive and Record Service Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents submit concerns. Requests are recorded in a database.
Initial Screening and Desktop Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate eligibility, assess basic conditions and constraints
Data Collection and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather traffic volume and speed. Conduct site visit to identify issues.
Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rank requests based on data-driven criteria.
Traffic Calming Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop preliminary design options.
Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share concepts with the public, gather feedback and gauge support for projects.
Final Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refine and finalize the chosen concept. Detailed design completed.
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install / construct traffic calming measures.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate effectiveness of measures. Adjust as necessary.

Annual Traffic Calming Activities



Service Requests

300 Service Requests Annually



Site Visits

70-100 site visits per year which includes data collection and assessments



Engagement

500-1200 properties engaged per year



Implemented Traffic Calming

3-5 streets calmed annually or
1 neighbourhood wide traffic calming project

Policy Alignment

Imagine Kelowna

- **Encouraging Active Transportation:** Traffic calming measures create safer and more inviting streets for walking, biking, and other non-driving modes of travel, aligning with the goal to shift away from car dependency.

OCP Policies

- **Create safe and comfortable Neighbourhood Streets:** Designing streets to prioritize walking, biking, and play.
- **Mitigating Neighbourhood Short-Cutting:** Reducing cut-through vehicle traffic in residential neighbourhoods

TMP Themes

- **Connected Communities:** Support for active transportation and safe, efficient mobility.
- **Vibrant Neighborhoods:** Traffic calming enhances neighbourhood livability.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Encourages walking, cycling, and reduced vehicle dependency.

TMP Policies

- **Policy 1.2.1:** Implement neighborhood traffic safety programs to reduce injuries and improve safety.
- **Policy 4.2.5:** Prioritize traffic calming measures near schools for safer routes.
- **Policy 3.3.4:** Address speeding concerns using data-driven approaches.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

- Align with the 2040 TMP.
- **Key Updates:**
 - A. Clarify eligibility criteria for traffic calming.
 - B. Prioritization criteria.
 - C. Community support survey.
 - D. Safety-driven projects.
 - E. Reevaluation process for previously assessed streets.
 - F. Neighbourhood vs. Street Level.



Proposed Updates to the Policy

A. Eligibility Criteria for Traffic Calming

- **Current Issues:**
 - Lack of clarity on where traffic calming measures can and cannot be installed
- **Proposed Updates:**
 - Traffic calming measures apply to **Local** or **Collector** streets,
 - except for streets in **Industrial Areas** and streets with **Steep Grades** (greater than 8%).
 - Other restrictions; **Agricultural Areas** and the **Frequent Transit Network**.
- Clarifying what streets are eligible for traffic calming improves expectations of and communications with residents.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

B. Prioritization for Traffic Calming

- **Current Issues:**
 - Heavily relies on vehicular data, excluding other considerations (e.g. active transportation)
 - Does not account for schools
- **Policy Update to Align with Current Practice:**
 - **Specific Metrics:** Speed, Traffic Volume, and School Proximity.
 - **Active Transportation:** Account for infrastructure (eg sidewalks, bike lanes) and use.
 - **Collision Data Adjustment:** Removes consideration of isolated collisions.
 - **Data Based Decision Making:** Places more focus on data and field observations vs the number of service requests.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

C. Community Support Survey

- **Current Issues**

- Lack of clarity on the number of directly impacted households are required to support a proposed traffic calming plan for it to proceed.

- **Policy Update to Align with Current Practice:**

- When a traffic calming is recommended based on prioritization.
- The City will engage residents directly impacted by traffic calming proposals through surveys to gauge their support.
- Projects will not move forward if more than 30% express opposition to the project.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

D. Safety-Driven Projects

- **Current Issues:**

- The requirement for community support surveys prevents the implementation of required safety improvements.

- **Proposed Updates:**

- When a traffic calming project is **required** based on field observations and data collection, the City will shift to a **safety-driven approach**.
- Residents will be **invited to choose between two or more design alternatives**. The option with the highest community support will proceed to construction.
- The City will provide clear explanations to residents, outlining the data and rationale behind these decisions.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

E. Re-evaluation Process

- **Current Issues:**

- There is currently no clear definition as to when the City will reevaluate a location that has previously been evaluated for traffic calming.

- **Policy Update to Align with Current Practice:**

- Streets previously evaluated for traffic calming will only be reconsidered if:
 - **Time:** At least 5 years have passed since the previous evaluation.
 - **Growth:** The number of dwelling units on the street segment or directly serviced by the street has increased by **more than 20%** and includes **at least 20 additional residential units**.
 - **Traffic Patterns:** A new street connection has significantly altered travel patterns in the area.
- This approach focuses resources on emerging issues while addressing significant changes.

Proposed Updates to the Policy

F. Traffic Calming Approach: Street Level vs Neighbourhood Wide

- **Current Issues:**
 - Current policy is focused on neighborhood-wide plans. Most traffic calming requests can be addressed at street segment level.
- **Policy Update to Align with Current Practice:**
 - Updated policy supports both approaches.
 - Street-Level: Applied when a change is unlikely to affect adjacent streets.
 - Neighborhood-Wide: Applied to prevent the unintended shift of traffic to nearby streets.
 - Provides flexibility for solutions that best match the scale and context of individual issues.

Next Steps



- Consolidate Council feedback.
- Updated the draft Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Program Policy.
- Return to Council for policy approval.

Summary of Workshop

This Policy Update is proposed to better reflect existing processes and make the Program more effective, efficient and transparent.

Key updates include;

- Better definition of exclusions,
- Updated prioritization considerations,
- Refined engagement process with options to address issues that require action.
- Balanced support for Neighbourhood and Segment/Street /Block level projects, and
- Clarify when streets will be reevaluated.



Questions?

For more information, visit kelowna.ca.