

Report from: Engineering, Facilities and Environmental Services, Transportation Services

Report Date: April 29, 2022

Meeting Date: May 25, 2022

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Subject: Expanded Traffic Calming Program and 40 km/h Speed Limits on Local Residential Streets

Recommendation

That \$50,000 for the Traffic Calming Program be included in the Draft 2023 Operating Budget for deliberation; and

That \$260,000 for the 40 km/h Speed Limits on Residential Streets project be included in the 2023 Capital Budget for deliberation.

Background

Expanded Traffic Calming Program

Following the approval of the updated traffic calming policy at the March 28, 2022, meeting of Council, all streets under the City's jurisdiction are now eligible for traffic calming measures. In addition, the updated policy also now includes the use of an expanded array of measures, both permanent and temporary and the target number of streets per year has been suggested to be increased to 12.

40 km/h Speed Limits on Local Residential Streets

At the March 28, 2022 meeting of Council, the staff recommendation to change all local residential streets within the city to 40 km/h was approved. In 2018 the province amended the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) to allow municipalities to reduce the speed limit to a rate less than 50 km/h and to apply it to all streets within a designated area. This means that the City can sign the speed limit for the designated area using "gateway" signs at the entrances / exits to the designated area from the bordering roadways, in contrast to having to sign each road along its entire length, as would have been required prior to the HTA amendments. In 2019, Council approved a pilot project to reduce the speed limit to 40 km/h on the local residential streets in Port Dalhousie off of Main Street. At the March 28, 2022 meeting of Council, the staff recommendation to change all local residential streets within the city to 40 km/h was approved.

Report

Expanded Traffic Calming Program

The updated traffic calming policy now permits various types of traffic calming on all City streets (previously it was limited to local and collector streets). The use of the expanded array of approved measures are dependant on street classification but range from paint on the street to temporary radar message boards to centreline flexible signs to temporary or permanent speed cushions, amongst others. Additionally, the number of streets that staff will aim to address on an annual basis will be 12. The thresholds to “meet” the policy were also lowered. All these items represent an expansion to the traffic calming program.

The current annual operating budget allocation for the traffic calming program is \$10,000. This budget must cover the purchase of the traffic calming measures, some of which are “expendable”, fund their installation by Municipal Works Traffic Operations staff, and cover the costs associated with collecting the required data.

The expanded program will require additional measures to be purchased and / or constructed and will also result in an expected increase in installation efforts. Given that this is a resident-driven program, and that the installation or construction of some of the measures are dependant on uptake, the budget request will be examined on an annual basis.

40 km/h Speed Limits on Local Residential Streets

Although the 40 km/h speed limit program for local residential streets was approved, Staff do not currently have the operating budget or the necessary human resources to initiate the conversion. In order to fully roll this program out, it is estimated that it will necessitate the installation of approximately 1,300 signs and posts across the city. These signs are required in order to inform motorists of the speed limit, but also to ensure the speed limit is enforceable.

Given the magnitude of this program, it will not be possible for Municipal Works Traffic Operations staff to undertake the work, therefore it is recommended that should this project move forward in 2023 that due to the larger nature of this it would be part of the 2023 capital budget to be evaluated and prioritized with other capital projects for that year.

Financial Implications

The budgeted amount for the provision of traffic calming for 2022 is \$10,000. In order to increase the implementation of traffic calming to a maximum number of 12 streets per year, it would require a budget allocation of approximately \$50,000. However, the installation of traffic calming is always contingent on resident support per the spirit and intent of the Policy and program. Staff are recommending that \$50,000 to be included in the Draft 2023 Operating Budget for Council deliberation.

The costs to support the procurement, installation and management of a contractor to complete the 40 km/h speed limit project in one calendar year is estimated to be \$260,000. Staff recommend that \$260,000 for the 40 km/h Speed Limits on Residential Streets project be included in the 2023 Capital Budget for Council deliberation.

Conclusion

At the March 28, 2022 Council meeting, an updated traffic calming policy with an expanded array of measures, as well as a program for the conversion of all local residential streets to 40 km/h, was approved. This report includes staff recommendations and estimated budget amounts for Council consideration as part of the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget deliberations.

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