



# City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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STREET MAINTENANCE  
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
REFUSE/ RECYCLING  
CENTRAL STORES

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works  
DATE: April 24, 2018  
RE: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program - Request for traffic study in Portland East neighborhood

**Summary:** Consider request from Portland East neighborhood to conduct a traffic study to confirm the presence of speeding and cut-through traffic, so they may proceed to next steps in Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

**Background:** The Harrisonburg Police Department brought the traffic concerns of the Portland East neighborhood to the Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission in December, 2017. The City's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) was decided on by HPD and Public Works staff as the best way to find solutions to the issues identified, which included speeding, cut-through traffic, and inconsistent compliance with regulatory signs (stop signs).

The NTCP is a partnership between Public Works and the Police Department that seeks to improve safety by reducing speeding and cut-through traffic in neighborhoods where these are documented problems. The program is based on a phased approach, starting with education, encouragement, and increased enforcement, and if conditions do not improve, ending with engineered improvements to the public street(s).

The NTCP manual ([www.harrisonburgva.gov/neighborhood-traffic-calming-program](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/neighborhood-traffic-calming-program)) contains a flow chart of required steps that neighborhoods must achieve in order to enroll in the program. The Portland East neighborhood has already organized neighbors, participated in the "Team Up To Slow Down" campaign, had a Police Department speed trailer located on Springfield Drive, twice, conducted increased enforcement, and completed a petition of the neighborhood. The next step in enrolling in the NTCP is to have Public Works conduct a traffic study to confirm the presence of speeding and cut-through traffic. City Council must authorize this study, according to the program manual.

Additional steps and threshold criteria needed to enroll in the program can be found at the link above. The traffic study must document 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds greater than 10 mph above the posted speed limit, that cut-through traffic exists, and that minimum traffic volumes are also met. After these conditions are documented, Public Works will verify that the neighborhood petition meets the required 75% of the resident signatures from the established neighborhood study area. Public Works will then report back to council on these items, and a request to Council will be made to enroll the neighborhood in the program. Once a neighborhood has successfully enrolled in the program, residents and Public Works collaborate to determine appropriate engineered solutions to speeding and cut-through traffic that may be implemented in the street right-of-ways.

Public Works hosted a neighborhood meeting on April 5, 2018 to discuss the NTCP with residents and to hear more about the traffic issues occurring in the neighborhood. Minutes from this meeting are

attached. At the meeting, staff worked with residents to identify a logical neighborhood boundary to study, based on the concerns of the neighborhood. This map is attached.

**Key Issues:** None.

**Environmental Impact:** None.

**Fiscal Impact:** The traffic study would require approximately 32 hours of Public Works staff time over 3 weeks.

**Prior Actions:** None.

**Alternatives:** Addressing some of these issues through the Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission is also a possibility, but may result in different solutions than would the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.

**Community Engagement:** The designated neighborhood contact has conducted community engagement on his own, to petition the neighborhood regarding the traffic problems and potential solutions.

Public Works hosted a neighborhood meeting at City Hall on April 5, 2018. Fourteen (14) residents attended.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request for Public Works to conduct the traffic study.

**Attachments:** Letter from neighborhood contact, Officer Greg Deeds, requesting the traffic study, including attachments required by the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (dates they have made requests to Harrisonburg Police Department for increased enforcement on our neighborhood streets, dates they utilized the Team Up to Slow Down Program, dates they discussed their concerns with their neighbors, and other encouragement measures used in the last 12 months). April 5th neighborhood meeting minutes, including map of neighborhood boundary. Speed trailer data.

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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