



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: June 8, 2021
RE: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program – Sunset Heights Neighborhood

Summary:

Consider adopting the revised Traffic Calming Plan for the Sunset Heights neighborhood.

Background:

The residents of the Sunset Heights neighborhood have been participating in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program since March 2015. The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is a partnership between the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) and the Public Works Department that uses a phased approach to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic in residential neighborhoods. The first steps include education/encouragement toward drivers to reduce speeds, increased enforcement, and progress into engineered solutions, if the problems persist. The neighborhood participated in the education, encouragement, and enforcements steps, but found speeding and cut-through traffic persistent. City Council officially enrolled the neighborhood into the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program at its June 26, 2018 meeting, allowing it to advance toward exploring physical traffic calming measures (engineered solutions) with the Public Works Department. City Council approved the Traffic Calming Plan for the neighborhood at its April 9, 2019, meeting. The table on the following page describes the activities completed by the neighborhood over the past six years.

TRAFFIC CALMING PHASE/ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
• Education & encouragement	March – May 2015
• Increased enforcement	March 2015
• Neighborhood meeting with Harrisonburg Police Department & Public Works	June 2015
• Traffic study of neighborhood (approved by City Council)	Fall 2015
• Petition of neighborhood	Winter 2015 – Spring 2018
• Enrollment approved by City Council	June 2018
• Neighborhood representative meeting with Public Works (initial plan development)	August 2018
• Neighborhood open-house meeting (open to public) to review and provide feedback on the draft Traffic Calming Plan	January 2019
• Plan supported by Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission	February 2019
• Endorsement of Plan by City Council	April 2019
• Implementation of Phase I of Plan	Summer/Fall 2019
• Traffic Study following Phase I implementation	Feb/March 2020
• Neighborhood representative meeting with Public Works to discuss revisions to Phase II of the Plan	May 2020
• Online survey for residents regarding potential measures	July 2020
• Neighborhood representative meeting with Public Works to review survey results and identify preferred measures	May 2021
• Online survey for residents regarding proposed measures	April 2021
• Revised Plan supported by Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission	May 2021

The measures that were implemented as part of phase I of the Traffic Calming Plan did not resolve the neighborhood’s concerns, and the traffic study completed following phase I implementation showed that multiple roads in the neighborhood continued to be eligible for traffic calming measures. Due to a combination of factors, staff determined that revisions were necessary to phase II of the Traffic Calming Plan in order to implement measures that would be effective and supported by the neighborhood. The neighborhood representatives committee supported this effort, and an online neighborhood survey was conducted in the summer of 2020. Staff and the neighborhood representatives group then identified a combination of traffic calming measures that were seen to be most supported by neighborhood residents. These measures are shown in Figure 1 on the next page and in Appendix A of the provided draft Traffic Calming Plan. An additional public survey confirmed widespread neighborhood support for the measures and the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission supported the proposed Plan revisions at their May meeting.

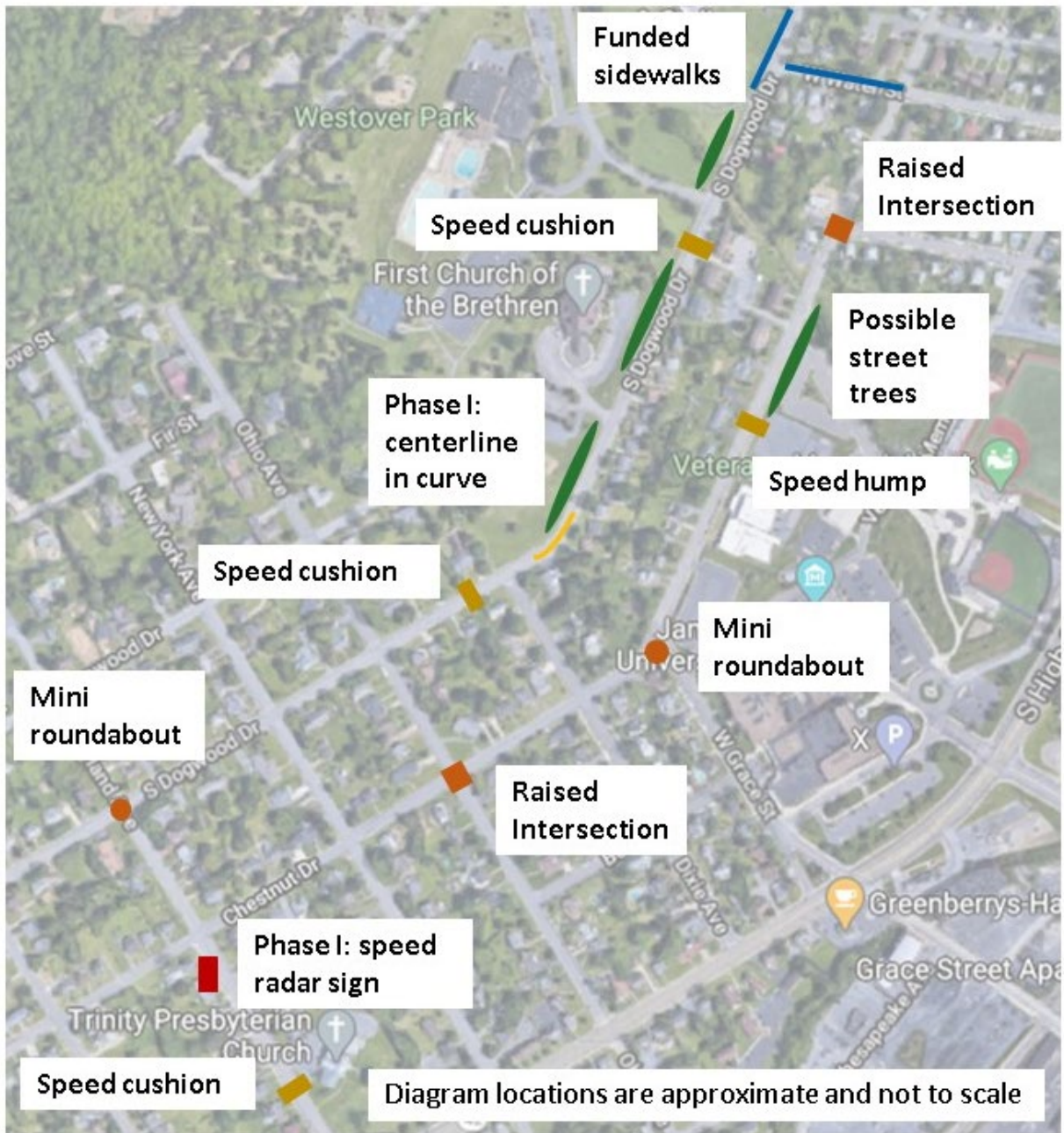


Figure 1: Type and location of proposed traffic calming measures

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

None

Fiscal Impact:

Funds allocated for traffic calming measures are adequate to cover costs of the proposed measures.

Prior Actions:

City Council approved the request for a traffic study of the neighborhood in the spring of 2015, enrolled the neighborhood in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program in June 2018, and approved the Traffic Calming Plan in April 2019.

Alternatives:

Address safety concerns through spot improvements that may be recommended by the Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission. Additional traffic enforcement by HPD.

Community Engagement:

Multiple neighborhood engagement efforts were completed prior to Plan adoption in April 2019. Additional outreach has been completed related to the Plan revision. In July 2020, residents of the neighborhood were provided the opportunity to respond to an online survey with alternatives involving different traffic calming measures. This survey was promoted online and through a mailing to neighborhood residents, leading to 140 residents completing the online survey. The results of this survey informed identification of suitable measures to implement in the neighborhood. Following additional staff coordination with the Neighborhood representatives group regarding measures to propose, a second survey was conducted to gauge neighborhood support for the proposed measures. This second survey, conducted in May 2021 and promoted both online and through a mailing to neighborhood residents, received 224 responses. These responses indicated widespread support for revising the Traffic Calming Plan to include the proposed measures, with over 80% of respondents saying that they agree or strongly agree with implementation of the measures.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving the Sunset Heights Traffic Calming Plan.

Attachments:

1. Sunset Heights Traffic Calming Plan
2. Presentation

Review: