NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

Fieldale Place/Portland Drive Neighborhood

Thursday, April 5, 2018
at City Hall, Room 011

Meeting Summary

I.   **Welcome and Introductions**

Erin Yancey, the Public Works Planning Manager, welcomed the neighborhood and introduced herself and others from Public Works and the Police Department. Approximately 14 people from the neighborhood attended the meeting.

II.   **Brief Overview of Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program / Discussion**

Ms. Yancey briefly explained the history of the traffic calming program, the initial steps that the neighborhood has already taken, and the next steps should the neighborhood be enrolled in the program.

Prior to this meeting, a petition was circulated around the neighborhood to discuss enrolling in the program generally, and how each homeowner would feel about installing a cul-de-sac on Fieldale Place specifically. The petition showed a majority of homeowners were interested in both the program and the cul-de-sac. While specific treatments were beyond the scope of this meeting, the petition will be taken into account, and used in the petition phase of the program. Ms. Yancey also addressed the suggestion of the cul-de-sac, informing the group that this is one strategy among many that will be explored, and that any solution will need to be thoroughly vetted by other stakeholders, such as police, fire, and VDOT, as this neighborhood connects to the County.

When concerns were first brought to Public Works, the assumption was that the new housing development in the county that had a driveway opposite of Fieldale Place was the driving force behind the neighborhood's concerns. As part of the program, the Police Department place their speed trailer on Fieldale Place for a week during JMU's winter break and for a week at the beginning of JMU's spring semester. The speed trailer showed an increase in daily traffic from 400 vehicles per day over winter break to 540 vehicles per day at the beginning of the semester. The speed trailer did not show a change in speed. The speed trailer can only collect traffic data in one direction. It is assumed that actual traffic on the road in roughly double what the speed trailer collected, when accounting for traffic in both directions.

Increased enforcement in the neighborhood found that drivers were frequently running both stop signs – one at Fieldale Pl and Springfield Dr and one at Springfield Dr and Portland Dr. When asked where the drivers were coming from and where they were going, to determine if they were part of the neighborhood or if they were cutting through, it was found that a portion were JMU students, a portion were workers at Sentara RMH, and the rest were typical citizens in the city and county.

III.   **Neighborhood Concerns Discussion**

When asked about the top concerns, most of those present said that the stop sign running as described above was the biggest concern. Several anecdotes shared that people that live in the culs-de-sac on Portland Dr and Springfield Dr often slow down or stop at the stop-sign controlled intersections, despite not having a stop sign on their side, because so many other drivers frequently do not stop at the stop sign. There was also information shared about multiple pets that have been killed by speeding vehicles. The neighborhood is concerned about the safety of children in the neighborhood, and find it unacceptable that the unsafe traffic situation prevents them from walk to friends' houses in the neighborhood.

Another concern is an increase in cut-through traffic. This problem appears to have started about 4-5 years ago as Stone Spring Rd was completed and more development was built on Reservoir St. The use of GPS programs seems to have brought more drivers through the neighborhood, including heavy vehicles like tractor-trailers.

They also expressed concern about the high volume of noise from the increased traffic and speeding occurring in the neighborhood.

IV.   **Traffic Study**

Ian Pike, the Transportation System Specialist with Public Works, explained the next step in the process, performing a traffic study in the neighborhood.

During this step, various data, such as speed, volume, and vehicle classification, would be collected to better inform if the neighborhood is eligible to enroll in the program and then what countermeasures would be appropriate to address their concerns.

V.   Next Steps

Tom Hartman, Assistant Director with Public Works, stated that based on the information provided and the work already done by the neighborhood, Public Works could accelerate the timeline and start the traffic study before going to City Council. This would allow Public Works to collect data before JMU concluded for the summer. After the data collection, it will be determined if the neighborhood is eligible to enroll in the full program at which point Public Works will reach out and arrange another neighborhood meeting.

VI.   Adjourn

For a copy of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Booklet, visit
https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/neighborhood-traffic-calming-program

Questions & Comments? Contact: Erin Yancey, Public Works Planning Manager, erin.yancey@harrisonburgva.gov or 540.434.5928

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Organization	E-mail
Russ Eagle		
Lee Shifflett		Shifflr @ JMU.edu
Spencer Getz		Spencer.getz@gmail.com
Clayton Robertson		PClAYR @comcast.Net.
Debra Thompson		
Ron King		rg'iKing@gmail.com
Lila King		
GREG CULBERTSON		greglc7@yahoo.com
Tom & Brittany Bates		brittanylbates@gmail.com
Megan Ruckman		reichame@gmail.com
Ian Steines		ianesteines@yahoo.com
Greg Deeds	HPD	sreg.deed@harrisonburgva.gov
Wayne Westfall	HPD	

Portland East Sub-Division Traffic Calming Program

Goals & Adjectives of the Portland East's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program:

* Reduce <u>cut-through traffic</u> plaguing Portland Dr. – Springfield Dr. – Fieldale Place.
* Reduce <u>stop sign violations</u> on Springfield Dr. at Portland Dr. & Fieldale Pl.
* Reduce <u>cut through traffic from Commercial Motor Vehicles</u> that are being routed by GPS.
* Reduce <u>speeding violations on Fieldale Pl.</u>
* Reduce <u>littering</u> along Portland Dr. – Springfield Dr. – Fieldale Place.
* Improve <u>neighborhood safety for children living & playing</u> in the area.
* <u>Restore the quality of life for residents</u> in the complaint area do to cut through traffic from the on-going development East of City Limits

Suggestions from Residents:

- Several Residents on Springfield Dr. have requested (Dead End) signage like on Portland Dr., no response from the City.
- Several Residents inquired about (No Through Trucks) signs.
- Several Residents inquired about (No Through Traffic) signage like Purcell Park & Central Ave. areas.
- Several Residents inquired about the (Increased Fee Area) speeding violations

Numerous Residents Reported:

- Portland & Springfield Dr Residents reported that they have had several close-calls over the years ref. cut through motorist running stops signs at Portland & Fieldale and they have had to slam on their brakes to avoid hitting the violator. Some advise that the violators never look right or Northbound when running the stop signs, then flip them the bird when they blow their vehicle's horn.

- Portland & Springfield Residents residing in or near the cul-de-sac on those streets report that cut-through or GPS routed motorists become agitated when they find they cannot exit the neighborhood by that route and gun the accelerator and squeal their wheels, when turning around in said cul-de-sacs.

- Three residents reported that 3 of their K-9's were hit and killed by cut through motorist that did not stop in the past year.

- One resident advised she didn't want to see another Belmont Estates incident repeated when several children were run over waiting for their school bus.

- A couple of residents on upper Portland Dr. reported that they think the (Dead End) signage helped with cut though motorists not proceeding past Springfield Dr. on Portland Dr., they have seen a decrease in motorists turning around in their cul-de-sac

PORT REPUBLIC RD

WEST CT

SPRINGFIELD DR

FIELDALE PL

PORTLAND DR

EAST CT

DR

N

Portland Dr Neighborhood
Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
Neighborhood Boundary

CITY OF HARRISONBURG
VIRGINIA