



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

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To: Ande Banks, Interim City Manager
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
Date: June 14, 2022
Re: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program: Portland East neighborhood

Summary:

Consider authorizing City staff to install and enforce ‘No Thru Traffic’ signs in the Portland East Neighborhood.

Background:

The Portland East neighborhood was formally enrolled in the City’s Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) in June 2018, after completing a number of prerequisite steps for enrollment. A Traffic Calming Plan was then created to identify measures to be implemented in response to citizen concerns in the Portland East neighborhood about the high volume of cut-through traffic using neighborhood streets between Port Republic Road and Reservoir Street. City Council adopted the Traffic Calming Plan for the neighborhood in November 2018, and it is provided as an attachment.

Harrisonburg Public Works staff, in coordination with the Harrisonburg Police Department and neighborhood residents have installed all the measures included in the Portland East Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan. Traffic data was collected before and after implementation of the measures, and it is provided as an attachment. The data shows that the measures led to reduced speed of vehicles driving through the neighborhood. However, traffic volumes were shown to be increasing, likely due to construction of nearby developments. In particular, the amount of traffic at late-night hours has been a concern to residents and was observed in the traffic data.

After significant communication between Public Works, HPD, VDOT staff, and neighborhood residents, installation of ‘No Thru Traffic’ signs on Portland Dr at Port Republic Rd and on Fieldale Place at Reservoir St has been identified as the action that achieves the traffic calming goals most directly. The Harrisonburg Police Department will enforce the restriction if drivers are observed traveling through the neighborhood, in either direction, between Port Republic Rd and Reservoir St. Public Works staff will communicate the change to Waze and Google Maps, anticipating that it will lead them to no longer direct traffic through the neighborhood. The restriction will not impact access for those who live in the neighborhood between Reservoir St and Port Republic Rd, including both City and County residents. Once fully implemented, Public Works staff will collect traffic data to identify the impact of this change.

Staff consider the context of this neighborhood, and the surrounding road network, to be different from other locations in the city. Given this, staff do not currently anticipate additional implementation of restrictions on through traffic in the City. However, given the traffic calming measures taken in the neighborhood and the lack of impact on traffic volumes, staff requests that Council approve installation of the “No Thru Traffic” restriction.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Prior Actions:

In April of 2018, Council approved the traffic study request for the neighborhood. In November of 2018, Council approved the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan for the neighborhood.

Alternatives:

Continue to evaluate additional traffic calming measures in the neighborhood

Community Engagement:

Staff has held numerous meetings and had other discussions with neighborhood residents, facilitated through the Neighborhood Representatives.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that Council approve installation of the “No Thru Traffic” restriction.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, adopted in 2018
3. Traffic volume and speed data collected

Review: