

# MEMORANDUM

Date: November 7, 2023

To: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director Community Development; Ryan Lopossa, Transportation Division Manager Public Works; Kate Drennan, Principal Transportation Planner Community Development

From: Laurel Priest, Associate Transportation Planner, Community Development; Brooke Porter, Communications Specialist, Public Works; Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development

RE: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Overview and 10-year Anniversary

## Program Overview

The City's [Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program](#) (NTCP) offers community members the opportunity to champion projects that reduce residential speeding through traffic calming measures and improve livability on neighborhood streets through a competitive selection process for funding and implementation.

## Program Background

The NTCP started as a pilot project in partnership with the [Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance](#) (NTSA) in 2001. The pilot started with \$2 million in funding over two years. This pilot continued until 2009 and funded over 60 projects with over 50 neighborhood associations participating.

In 2010, the NTCP was phased out due to limited resources and budget shortfalls. During this time, City staff continued to look for innovative ways to help neighborhoods throughout Vancouver address traffic and speeding concerns. Working in close collaboration with the NTSA, the City launched a revitalized Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program in 2013 to implement projects that are cost effective and low maintenance.

## Program Funding

Funding for the NTCP is available through a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fees and multiple other revenue sources, providing a 2023 approximate budget of \$300,000. Project costs are coordinated through several different strategies and partnerships within City departments to maximize cost efficiencies.

## What is Traffic Calming?

Traffic calming is a way to add physical and visual cues in and along a street to encourage drivers to travel at slower speeds. The design of the roadway slows driver speeds without relying on compliance with traffic control devices such as signals, stop signs and enforcement. Traffic calming can reduce the number and severity of crashes and improve safety and levels of traffic stress for all road users, creating more livable and accessible streets. This aligns with [City Council's values](#) of safety, equity, and climate.

## **Program Flow**

Implementation of the NTCP requires interdepartmental and community collaboration at every stage. Community members submit roadway safety concerns for the NTCP, which are reviewed and evaluated by both City staff and the NTSA, combining scores to determine the top-ranking projects.

Below is a high-level summary of the program steps that occur over the course of the year. For a full description of the entire NTCP process, see the [Program Overview Brochure](#).

1. New Project Submissions (January-February)
2. Internal Submission Review and Evaluation (March-May)
3. NTSA Review and Evaluation (June-September)
4. Selected Projects Announced (October)
5. Selected Project Implemented (Typically the next year)

## **A Decade of Neighborhood Traffic Safety**

This year marks 10 years of the revitalized NTCP. To celebrate the 10-year anniversary, the NTCP Team created an interactive [10-year Retrospective StoryMap](#) documenting the last decade of projects selected and implemented across the City. To date, the NTCP has funded approximately 40 safety and traffic calming projects. The StoryMap is intended to be an educational and celebratory summary showing the widespread safety benefits provided by the NTCP during the past 10 years.

## **2023 Program**

In 2023, the NTCP continues to offer community members the opportunity to champion projects that reduce speeding and improve residential roadway safety. There were 98 submissions. Many submissions this year included several complex and lengthy streets, meaning the traffic calming elements and design could take longer to determine and coordinate with existing City work. Additional projects could be selected based on ranked order if funding is available.

The top eight projects were scored with equal value from the City and NTSA and the top two projects were selected for funding, which was announced at the October NTSA meeting:

- NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave between NE 63<sup>rd</sup> St and NE 78<sup>th</sup> St (Green Meadows Neighborhood Association)
- NE 39<sup>th</sup> St between NE 137<sup>th</sup> Ave and NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Ave (Parkside, Burnt Bridge Creek and Parkway East Neighborhood Associations)

Each year, the NTCP Team assesses the program to make improvements, such as streamlining the application and review processes, and are also collaborating to determine opportunities to expand the scope and reach of the NTCP in the future.

## **2024 Program**

The application period for the 2024 NTCP will be open January 1, 2024 to February 29, 2024. Information about applying will be available on the [program webpage](#) and the Project Team can be contacted at [TrafficCalmingProgram@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:TrafficCalmingProgram@cityofvancouver.us).