



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2024

TO: Transportation and Mobility Commission

FROM: Emily Benoit, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development Department

RE: **Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program – 2024**

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, Community Development Department;
Kate Drennan, Transportation Planning Manager, Community Development Department

Program Purpose

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. The NTCP considers community-identified projects through a competitive selection process for funding and implementation.

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 can help to slow driver speeds without relying on traffic control devices such as signals, stop signs and enforcement. Traffic calming elements can include, but are not limited to, vertical elements like speed tables or raised intersections, roadway narrowing or chicanes, traffic circles, or radar feedback signs. Traffic calming can reduce the number and severity of crashes, improve safety and levels of traffic stress for all road users, and create more livable and accessible streets. These outcomes align with City Council's values of safety, equity, and climate.

Transportation and Mobility Commission's Role

The role of the Transportation and Mobility Commission (TMC) is to advise on and support efforts to create and maintain a transportation system that enhances the economic, social and environmental quality of life in Vancouver now and in the future. Specifically, the TMC bylaws require that it review all transportation programs, including the NTCP. The TMC does not rank projects, as this process is well defined in program guidelines, but will receive annual updates and review and provide feedback on periodic changes and refinements to program guidelines when they occur. In addition, projects that increase neighborhood safety and community engagement in the transportation system are relevant to the TMC's overall role and existing work.

Program Overview

Implementation of the NTCP requires interdepartmental and community collaboration. Community members submit roadway safety concerns to the NTCP. These submissions are reviewed and evaluated by City staff in two phases. The first phase reviews projects for the eligibility criteria listed here:

- Project submission locations must be within the City of Vancouver. Projects outside the City limits will not be considered.
- Each project location must have a community member to champion the project through the review and selection process. A project location will not be considered without a project proponent.
- Infrastructure projects, where traffic calming elements might be added within the street right-of-way, are limited to residential and collector arterial streets.
- Principal arterial streets are not included in the program. Principal arterials are reviewed, evaluated and considered through other City programs.
- Project submission locations are not on streets with existing NTCP projects or planned future roadway projects.

Submissions that meet the initial eligibility criteria are moved to the second phase to collect vehicle speed and volume counts. For submissions meeting the speed and volume thresholds, further analysis is conducted to determine the presence of sidewalks and mobility lanes, vicinity to schools and bus stops, and collision history. This evaluation results in a score to determine the top-ranked projects for selection.

The program milestones for the NTCP are:

- Application Submissions by Community Members
- Submission Review and Evaluation by Program Staff
- Project Selection and Announcement
- Design and Implementation by the Public Works Department

Next Steps

The submission period for the 2024 NTCP closed on February 29. The Program Team is now in the submission review and evaluation stage. Project selection is anticipated for this summer, with project implementation scheduled for 2025.

Attachments

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Overview and 10-Year Anniversary Memo
(November 2023)