

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JUNE 10, 2008 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Amendments to the Traffic Calming Policy and Transportation and Parking Enabling Ordinance	Resolution ✓ Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	David Fieldman Acting Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

Ordinances have been prepared amending the Transportation and Parking Commission enabling ordinance and the Village Council's Traffic Calming Policy. These ordinance amendments were discussed and recommended for Village Council approval at the joint meeting of the Public Services and Public Safety Standing Committees in April 2008.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals identifies *Preservation of Our Residential and Neighborhood Character*. A supporting objective of this goal is *Maintain Safe and Secure Neighborhoods*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the June 17, 2008, active agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Village's current Traffic Calming Policy was initiated in response to neighborhood speeding, congestion and safety complaints. Traffic calming initiatives may be implemented on any public street. The list of physical devices and operational measures for traffic calming includes, but is not limited to: education and enforcement efforts, neighborhood speed posters, radar trailers, pavement markings, turn restriction controls, medians and median islands, traffic circles, roundabouts, speed cushions, chicanes, roadway narrowings, cul-de-sacs and raised crosswalks and intersections.

Upon review of the Village's current Traffic Calming Policy and Program, staff identified several issues requiring attention.

1. *Program Elements within the Policy* – The program elements of the current policy force staff to follow explicitly stated steps rather than seek effective solutions.
2. *Lack of Flexibility* –The current policy includes a number of specific technical requirements that must be met prior to the implementation of any traffic calming measures.
3. *Inefficient Process/Poor Responsiveness* – Staff believes the current 18 step traffic calming review process, which typically involves multiple petitions and neighborhood meetings, is overly cumbersome for Village residents.
4. *Lack of Input from Transportation and Parking Commission Regarding Traffic Calming Initiatives* – The current policy does not address the major role of the newly established Transportation and Parking Commission, which will review resident concerns regarding traffic calming issues.

5. *Lack of Village Council Input in the Final Decision-Making Process* – The current policy and practice does not call for the Village Council to make decisions on all petitions. Staff believes the current process would benefit from Council involvement in the decision-making process.

In response to the concerns outlined above, staff drafted an amendment to the Village Council's Traffic Calming Policy and updated the Program Handbook to be distributed to residents requesting a petition for their traffic-related concerns. These documents were presented at joint meetings of the Public Services and Public Safety Standing Committees of the Village Council on February 18, 2008, and April 21, 2008. At the most recent meeting, the Committee recommended the policy be presented to the Village Council for review. The proposed traffic calming policy amendment and program enhancements are designed to achieve the following:

1. *Focus on Policy* – Upon approval of the amendment, staff would administer requests for traffic calming measures pursuant to a program prepared and managed by staff and pursuant to the Traffic and Parking Commission enabling ordinance recently approved by the Council.
2. *Allow for Greater Flexibility in the Implementation of Traffic Calming Techniques* – The proposed amendment allows for implementation of traffic calming measures to be decided on a case-by-case basis.
3. *Increase Overall Responsiveness to Concerns of the Public* - The amendment would require the Transportation and Parking Commission and the Village Council to review petitions and take action in a timely manner. The policy would also allow the Village Manager to install temporary traffic calming measures if deemed necessary.
4. *Seek Input from the Transportation and Parking Commission or Other Recommending Body Regarding Traffic Issues* – The proposed amendment states that the Transportation and Parking Commission should consider traffic calming issues pursuant to the recently established enabling ordinance and allows for other recommending bodies to consider traffic calming issues when appropriate.
5. *Obtain Final Decisions from the Village Council Regarding the Use of Various Traffic Calming Techniques* – The proposed amendment, in conjunction with the Transportation and Parking Commission enabling ordinance, requires the Village Council to review and consider all petitions and to approve any permanent calming devices within a set time period.
6. *Standards for Approving Traffic Calming Requests* – The proposed policy provides standards of approval by which the Village Council should apply to individual traffic calming requests.
7. *Prioritization of Approved Traffic Calming Projects* – The proposed policy states that the Village Council shall have the right to prioritize projects. Staff will prepare recommendations for project prioritization as part of the annual budget process.
8. *Transparency in Process* – The program handbook includes a summary of the “3 E” (education, enforcement and engineering) approach to traffic calming.
9. *Definition of Success* – The proposed policy includes a provision that states the Village will monitor the effectiveness of traffic calming measures and report findings to the Transportation and Parking Commission and the Village Council.
10. *Liability Issues* – The Village Attorney has reviewed this issue and has determined that the Village may use traffic calming techniques.
11. *Traffic Calming Program Management* – The draft traffic calming information packet explains how staff will administer the program.

In addition to the changes listed above, staff also recommends an amendment to the enabling ordinance of the Transportation and Parking Commission. The current enabling ordinance requires individuals to obtain 15 signatures from neighboring residents prior to submitting the petition for review by the Commission. Staff proposes an amendment to the Commission's enabling ordinance that instead requires the petitioner to obtain five signatures from neighboring residents prior to

submittal of the petition. The proposed amendment to the enabling ordinance will reduce the burden on residents seeking traffic calming measures in their neighborhood and will allow staff to be more responsive to various traffic-related concerns.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinances

Proposed Traffic Calming Program Handbook

Minutes from February 18, 2008

Draft Minutes from April 21, 2008

Current Traffic Calming Policy

Traffic Calming

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARKING & TRAFFIC COMMISSION PROCEDURES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by **shading/underline**; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 2.62. is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.62. Powers and Duties/Procedures.

(1) Powers and Duties.

The Transportation and Parking Commission shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:

- a. To receive, investigate, evaluate and report to the Council on requests made by the Village Council, by the Village Manager or through a completed petition respecting transportation activities on public property. These transportation activities will encompass the following:
 - i. Transportation of people and materials
 - ii. Parking
 - iii. Traffic, including control, daily trends and abatement
 - iv. Commuter bus system
 - v. Pedestrians and non-motor vehicle traveling persons
 - vi. Traffic signage
- b. To conduct public meetings on proposed policies and plans when considered necessary by the commission, Village Council or as required by ordinance, State or federal law or regulation.
- c. To conduct public meetings respecting any such request; and to submit written findings and recommendations to the Village Council, setting forth its conclusions and recommendations respecting such matters or recommending alternatives thereto.
- d. To conduct such other meetings as it may deem necessary or appropriate, and to investigate such other inquiries, studies or other matters as the Village Council or Village Manager may from time to time refer to the commission.

(2) Procedures.

- a. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, petitions under the Transportation and Parking Commission shall be filed with the Director of Public Works. Each petition shall be fully completed, including the following information required for each petition:
 1. Street and/or intersection of issue or concern.
 2. Issue or concern, from the choice of the following, and a description of the issue or concern and a desired solution:
 - i. Parking
 - ii. Speeding
 - iii. Intersection control
 - iv. Other
 3. ~~Fifteen~~**Five (5)** signatures of neighboring residents along with printed name and address.
 4. Name and contact information of one resident who will function as the contact person with the Public Works Department.

Traffic Calming

b. A petition may be initiated by a Downers Grove resident or business owner. The petition shall be filed with the Director of Public Works. The petition shall be transmitted by the Director of Public Works to the Transportation and Parking Commission, along with the staff's analysis and recommendations, if any.

c. The Director of Public Works shall communicate to the petition's contact person upon receipt of the petition.

d. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of a complete petition by the Director of Public Works, the Transportation and Parking Commission shall commence a public meeting and provide written notice to petitioner(s) fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Within forty-five (45) days after conclusion of the public meeting, the Transportation and Parking Commission shall transmit to the Village Council its recommendations regarding such petition. The Transportation and Parking Commission may recommend approval or denial of all or any portion of the petition, including any modifications hereto, and may condition such recommendation on restrictions and requirements the Transportation and Parking Commission determines appropriate or necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and/or ensure that the petition, as approved, will conform to the provisions of this Municipal Code.

e. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the findings and recommendations of the Transportation and Parking Commission, the Village Council shall consider the Commission recommendations.

(Ord. No. 517, § 2; Ord. No. 1514, § 1; Ord. No. 2126, § 2; Ord. No. 2641, § 4; Ord. No. 3266, § 34.)

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: _____

Village Clerk



Village of Downers Grove

Official Village Policy Approved by Village Council

Description:	Traffic Calming Policy	
Res. or Ord. #:	Ord.	Effective Date: _____
Category:	Engineering and Public Works	
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Council Policy	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amends Previous Policy Dated: <u>03/15/05; 10/21/91</u>
	Description of Previous Policy (if different from above):	
	<u>Combining Inappropriate Use of Local Streets with Traffic Calming</u>	

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POLICY OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO TRAFFIC CALMING

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove has determined that it is necessary and desirable to periodically monitor roadways to determine traffic volumes, vehicular speeds, parking activity and pedestrian usage; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Village of Downers Grove to maintain, regulate and promote roadway use and safety in all forms, including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, etc., on highways and other public thoroughfares of the Village of Downers Grove, while essentially allowing for access to property and for utility rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove realizes that in certain circumstances when vehicular volumes and/or travel speeds are excessive and may threaten the public safety and welfare, it may be in the public's best interest to study such public thoroughfares in an effort to attempt to restore appropriate levels of vehicular and pedestrian safety through the use of traffic calming measures; and

WHEREAS, the objective of this Policy is to efficiently and effectively respond to traffic, speeding and safety concerns and to develop corrective or mitigating action which proposes to encourage and promote vehicles to travel an appropriate speed and to redirect inappropriate local street traffic to a designated arterial or collector roadway and not an adjacent or parallel local street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

1. That the Village Council, the Village Manager and the Transportation and Parking Commission or other appropriate recommending body will consider the implementation of traffic calming devices and measures as described in this Policy, as deemed appropriate. In an effort to achieve the objectives of this Policy, a variety of traffic calming techniques, including physical devices and operational measures, may be employed. The Village Council and/or the Village Manager shall

determine the traffic calming technique(s) to be employed in each specific circumstance on a case by case basis.

2. That the Village Manager and his/her designees are hereby authorized and directed to receive and appropriately respond to requests from residents or businesses for traffic calming measures. The Village Manager may refer such requests to the Transportation and Parking Commission for evaluation. Pursuant to Section 2.6 of the Village Code, the Transportation and Parking Commission is authorized to receive, investigate, evaluate and report to the Village Council on transportation activities on public property. The Village shall strive to seek input from and obtain a recommendation from the Transportation and Parking Commission on traffic calming issues when appropriate and practicable, prior to the deployment of a permanent traffic calming device or operational measure. The Transportation and Parking Commission's consideration of a traffic calming issue shall be conducted pursuant to Section 2.6 of the Village Code. In certain circumstances, the Village Council may, within its discretion, refer a traffic calming issue to any other recommending body for input and recommendation (i.e. Plan Commission, Public Safety Committee, etc.).

3. Traffic calming devices and operational measures may be used on any public street, public property (such as Village-owned parking areas) or thoroughfares located within the Village; provided that if used on any arterial and collector streets established as part of the Village's Future Land Use Map such devices or measures shall not unduly limit or restrict the flow of traffic throughout the Village and shall be employed in a manner to allow arterial and collector streets to function appropriately within the Village's street system as established as part of the Future Land Use map.

4. (a) The following standards will be applied when evaluating a request for traffic calming devices and operational measures:

- i. The segment of a street or public property is chronically experiencing an inordinate number of vehicles traveling in excess of the posted speed limit;
- ii. The segment of a street or public property is prone to experiencing a significant number of vehicles traveling at extreme speeds above the posted speed limit;
- iii. The segment of a street or public property is experiencing unintended or excessive traffic volume (i.e. cut-through traffic);
- iv. The requested traffic calming device or operational measure will not unduly limit, restrict or have any negative impacts on the flow of traffic throughout the Village;
- v. The requested traffic calming device or operational measure will not substantially affect or frustrate the intended use of streets within the established street system, as established by the Future Land Use Map;
- vi. The requested traffic calming device or operational measure will not negatively impact the delivery of Village services;
- vii. The requested traffic calming device or operational measure will not significantly alter the character of the neighborhood;
- viii. The requested traffic calming device or operational measure will not have a negative impact on the public health, safety and welfare.

In addition to the above standards, other relevant factors deemed appropriate that are specific and unique to a particular situation may be considered when evaluating a request, including, but not limited to, school and/or park proximity and pedestrian access.

(b) In the event that the Village wishes to pursue traffic calming devices or operational measures on any street that falls within the jurisdiction of the State, the County or Township, the authority having jurisdiction must review and approve the proposed traffic calming devices or operational measures prior to implementation.

5. The Village Manager may authorize the deployment of certain traffic calming devices and operational measures on a temporary basis, not to exceed a maximum of 180 days, except in cases in which the temporary measures are subject to the provisions specified in Section 14.4 of the Municipal Code, in which case the Village Manager's temporary suspension of regulations related to motor vehicles and traffic shall not exceed 60 days. The Village Manager may extend the timeframe for the use of temporary traffic calming devices and operational measures to allow time for the scheduling of a public meeting before the Transportation and Parking Commission and/or to allow for favorable weather conditions for the implementation of the Village Council approved permanent traffic calming devices.

6. The Village Council, upon receipt of a recommendation from the Village Manager and/or a recommendation from the Transportation and Parking Commission or other recommending body, as appropriate, may authorize the deployment of traffic calming devices and operational.

7. Once a traffic calming device or operational measure is approved, the Village shall have the right to prioritize the implementation of such device or measure. The Village's ability to construct approved traffic calming devices may be limited by budgetary constraints. In the event that there are multiple approved traffic calming devices which design and construction costs exceed the amount of funding in the approved municipal budget, the Village Council shall determine the priority of the traffic calming projects.

8. Once a traffic calming measure is implemented, the Village will continuously monitor its effectiveness and periodically report its findings to the Transportation and Parking Commission and/or the Village Council.

9. The validity of any ordinance or resolution otherwise passed in accordance with applicable law shall not be invalidated, impaired or otherwise affected by non-compliance with any part of a procedure or policy set forth herein.

10. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

11. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

Ronald L. Sandack, Mayor

Passed: _____

Approved: _____

Attest: _____

April K. Holden, Village Clerk

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Traffic Calming

APPLICATION PACKET

**Department of Public Works
Village of Downers Grove
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515**

Phone: 630-434-5600 Fax: 630-434-5495



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRAFFIC CALMING APPLICATION PACKET

- 1. What is Traffic Calming?**
- 2. Typical Traffic Calming Review Process**
- 3. Traffic Calming Process Flow Chart**
- 4. Traffic Calming Petition Form**
- 5. Traffic Calming Policy**



What is Traffic Calming?

Traffic Calming involves strategic educational, physical and operational changes to streets to reduce vehicle speeds and to decrease negative impacts from automobiles.

The Village uses three primary methods to create a safe environment for vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to prevent accidents. These three methods are sometimes referred to as the three E's of safety (Education, Enforcement and Engineering). The 3 E's can be used in the overall traffic safety plan for the Village of Downers Grove.

The first step is to Educate the motoring public about an issue by raising awareness and changing driver attitude. The second step would be Enforcement action, which is designed to have an immediate impact on driver conduct and influence future behavior. The last option is to make structural or engineering modifications to the roadway to prohibit certain vehicular movements or encourage vehicles to drive at appropriate speeds. While Engineering may assist in controlling behavior, education and enforcement are necessary to try to address the human factor in unsafe acts.

There is no doubt that unsafe traffic conditions can sometimes be eliminated through the proper application of engineering principles. These engineering principles should be applied to problems that are posed by unsafe conditions. However, safety engineering can't be effective in cases where human behavior causes an unsafe act. Safety education is the most effective tool in the prevention of human causes of accidents. In most cases, accidents can be prevented through adequate safety engineering and education; however, there is the reality that some people will fail to comply with accepted safety standards no matter how much engineering has been completed or how much education has been performed. In these cases effective enforcement measures will need to be in place.

It should be clear that no single element of the 3 Es can provide the absolute answer to all traffic safety concerns. Rather, there is a need for an integrated approach to such a complex issue. It will be essential to analyze the hazard or traffic problem in question prior to selecting the proper E or combination of Es to decrease or eliminate the potential hazard or problem.

Traffic control devices are designed to keep traffic on the appropriately classified road. They do so by making the travel time on residential streets longer than the travel time on the adjacent arterial roads. Traffic calming devices need to be part of a scheme extending along a street, several streets, or neighborhood to be effective. The objectives are to control traffic over an area, not an isolated location, and to be compatible with street activities and adjacent land uses.

Neighborhood traffic issues, consisting of vehicular speeding, cut through traffic, and general congestion, have become issues of significant importance and the last several Citizen Surveys have confirmed traffic issues as being among the top Village concerns.

Residential streets serve many functions. They may provide for on-street parking, circulation and access to properties for owners, visitors, service and emergency vehicles. Children play there; neighbors meet and socialize there. People use streets as an extension of their yards. Residential streets are not meant for high volume or high speed traffic.

Residents expect their streets to be:

- Safe for their children as well as themselves;
- A place where people have freedom of movement;
- A quiet place devoid of excessive traffic;
- A place where vehicles travel slowly, sharing the space with pedestrians and bikes.

Staff will strive to incorporate the following objectives:

- Work with neighborhood groups and homeowners to develop traffic calming measures on a neighborhood-wide basis as needed.
- Traffic calming measures shall not intentionally relocate the same problem to another street or neighborhood.
- Avoid restricting reasonable access and egress.
- Use self-enforcing measures where appropriate.
- Promote non-motorized transportation mode (walking, bicycling) wherever possible.
- Consider all services (school bus, transit, emergency snow plowing, garbage, etc.).
- Monitor and follow-up on a neighborhood-wide basis.



TYPICAL TRAFFIC CALMING REVIEW PROCESS

1. Preliminary Meeting with Public Works Staff

A preliminary meeting with Public Works staff should be scheduled to discuss the traffic issue or concern and to outline the traffic calming petition and review process. At this meeting the petitioner will receive preliminary feedback about the issue or concern and the policies of the Village of Downers Grove.

2. Submittal of a Petition

Following the preliminary meeting with staff, the petitioner should complete a traffic calming petition form (attached). The petition must have a minimum of five supporting signatures.

3. Staff Traffic Team Review

Within three weeks of receiving your traffic calming petition, the Staff Traffic Review Team will review your petition. The Traffic Review Team consists of engineers, planners, emergency service personnel and administrators in the Public Works, Community Development, Police and Fire Departments. Upon completion of the review of the petition, the Traffic Review Team will send you a written summary of their review and a notification of how your petition will be reviewed. At this time in the process, the Village Manager may authorize temporary traffic calming techniques or improvements that may remain in place until the review process is completed.

4. Neighborhood Meeting (Optional)

Following the Staff Traffic Team review, staff may schedule a neighborhood meeting to discuss the traffic issue or concern and proposed solutions with nearby residents.

5. Transportation and Parking Commission Review

The Transportation and Parking Commission (TaP) will review the petition at a public meeting. Potentially affected residents will be notified of the meeting and other measures may be employed to provide notice, e.g. signs may be posted along the affected road. The Commission will consider the petition, hear any other concerns which may be presented, consider a recommendation prepared by the Staff Traffic Review Team and will make a recommendation to the Village Council. The recommendation can be approval, approval with conditions or denial.

6. Village Council Workshop/Meeting

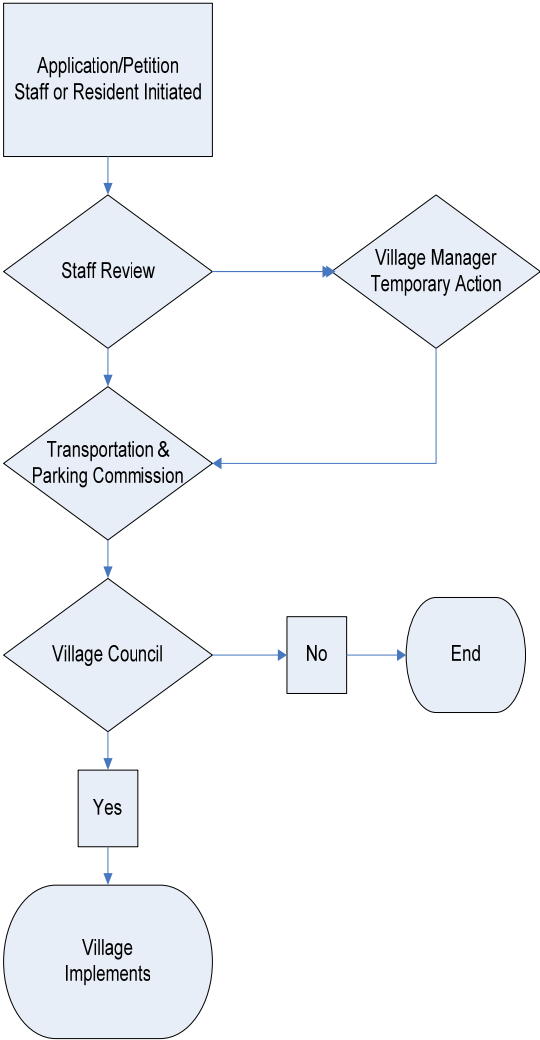
Following the recommendation by the Transportation and Parking Commission, the petition is scheduled for a Village Council Workshop (typically three to five weeks after the Transportation and Parking Commission review). The Village Council will review the recommendation of TaP and approve, deny, modify or remand it to the Transportation and Parking Commission for further consideration. If the Village Council approves physical improvements to a street, the improvements will be made by the Village as construction schedules and the Village budget permits. .

The entire process from the submittal of a petition to Village Council consideration takes approximately 12 weeks.



TRAFFIC CALMING PETITION PROCESS FLOW CHART

Proposed Traffic Calming Process





Village of Downers Grove Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program PETITION

Thank You for expressing interest in the Village's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP). Please complete the information requested below and return it to the Village of Downers Grove Public Works Department

Mail (drop off, or FAX) this Form to:

Village of Downers Grove

Traffic Manager
Department of Public Works
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515 FAX 630-434-5495

(Contact Person's) Name : _____

Address : _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address : _____

On the following lines describe your traffic concerns and their location:
Support from Neighbors to Proceed:

Name

Address

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

MEETING MINUTES

Date: **February 18, 2008**

Location: **Downers Grove Village Hall**

Topic: **Public Services / Public Safety Committee Meeting**

Members: **Marilyn Schnell, Martin Tully, Geoff Neustadt**

Staff: **Dave Fieldman, Mike Baker, Robin Weaver, Mike Millette**

Attendees: **Lisa Woodman (500 Claremont Dr), Andy Clark, Bill Wrobel**

Commissioner Schnell called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. No minutes were approved.

Deputy Manager Fieldman made the staff presentation regarding the traffic calming policy.

Commissioner Neustadt asked about the cost of the speed cushions and the amount left for traffic calming activities in FY08. Director Weaver indicated that they cost approximately \$7000. Commissioner Neustadt expressed concern regarding public safety vehicular access with speed cushions.

Commissioner Tully inquired about how the policy proposes to deal with competing priorities and resources allocation? Deputy Manager Fieldman responded that prioritization would be resolved through the annual budget process. Commissioner Tully stated that it would be important to have objective criteria to make reasonable decisions and allow projects to be ranked, preferring that input be provided by technically trained experts. Commissioner Tully also asked how neighborhood disagreement over proposed projects would be resolved. Deputy Manager Fieldman stated that there are established processes in place for residents meetings to resolve issues involving disputes, such as land use decisions & stormwater projects. Commissioner Tully asked how "neighboring residents" would be defined and how input from the Police and Fire Departments would be considered by the Transportation and Parking (TAP) Commission. Deputy Manager Fieldman stated that the liaison to TAP will involve appropriate departments in development of staff reports/recommendation, and will have technical experts attend meetings when necessary. Commissioner Tully inquired about the process for neighborhoods to initiate a funding mechanism for project completion, such as a Special Service Area. Deputy Manager Fieldman indicated that the current Village policy provides for SSA creation and would be applied under these circumstances. Commissioner Tully stated that he supports streamlining & simplifying the process, but think that there needs to be fair, objective process for evaluating requests based on standardized criteria.

Commissioner Schnell stated that anything that TAP decides on needs to be addressed on a regional basis, including the entire street or neighborhood in solution. She expressed concern about how the effectiveness of traffic calming measures was going to be evaluated. She also wanted to ensure that residents were notified of temporary Manager-initiated solutions.

Resident Lisa Woodman stated that she would like to have some time parameters provided to residents to indicate what they should expect in terms of the duration of the process. She also indicated that Darien and Bolingbrook have traffic calming policies and processes in place that could be reviewed for best practices.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

Public Services and Public Safety Standing Committees
Minutes of Public Meeting
April 21, 2008

Village of Downers Grove
801 Burlington Avenue
Committee Room

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Marilyn Schnell, Public Services
Commissioner Bruce Beckman, Public Services
Commissioner Martin Tully, Public Safety
Commissioner Geoff Neustadt, Public Safety

Staff: David Fieldman, Deputy Village Manager
Mike Baker, Assistant Village Manager
Robin Weaver, Interim Director of Public Works
Mike Millette, Assistant Director of Public Works
Phil Ruscetti, Fire Chief
Robert Porter, Police Chief
Megan Bourke, Management Analyst

Other: Bill Wrobel, 7800 Queens Court
Lisa Woodman, 500 Claremont Drive

Commissioner Schnell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Tully moved to approve the minutes from March 24, 2008. Commissioner Neustadt seconded. Minutes were approved.

TRAFFIC CALMING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Mr. Fieldman explained the policy goals. The packet contains the application, which explains the three E's: education, enforcement and engineering, as well as the flow chart of the process and applicable sections of the Municipal Code. The policy also includes the definition of success.

Commissioner Neustadt asked what events would happen for Village Manager temporary action. Mr. Fieldman responded that residents know about traffic situations and if there is an eminent danger, the Village Manager has the authority to place temporary speed bumps. Ms. Weaver added there could be an unforeseen traffic pattern; temporary action allows staff to respond quickly. Mr. Fieldman mentioned staff has purchased temporary

speed bumps. These temporary measures will also provide data for the Transportation and Parking Commission.

Commissioner Schnell asked how many residents would get noticed of a temporary traffic calming device. Mr. Fieldman said that the policy was silent on this issue so as not to confine staff's action. Commissioner Schnell asked about the methods of notification, e.g. warning signs. Ms. Weaver said that if people are going the speed limit, they should not be affected by a temporary speed bump.

Commission Neustadt asked how the Police Department and Fire Department would be notified. Mr. Fieldman talked about Item 3 which outlined a staff review process. Chief Ruscetti said dispatchers let them know about street closures.

Commissioner Schnell pointed out that the temporary measures would not be instantaneous; they would go through a review process.

Commissioner Beckman asked about threshold. How many signatures are required for submittal of a petition? The policy says five but the Municipal Code says 15. Mr. Fieldman answered that it was staff's intention to be responsive and have a low threshold; five signatures are required. Ms. Weaver said feedback would be provided to the petitioner.

Commissioner Tully thanked staff for the revisions. On page 2, there seems to be no difference between 4.a.i. and 4.a.ii. Mr. Fieldman said that 4.a.i. addresses streets where most cars speed and 4.a.ii. addresses streets where there is a small number of speeders. Commissioner Tully pointed out the difference as chronic speeding and infrequent, extreme speeding. Commissioner Beckman asked if it would be all right to use an example to explain the difference. **Commissioner Tully** suggested adding language to include school and/or park access.

Commissioner Schnell asked how staff would prioritize issues. She stated she had sent her questions to the Village Attorney to be presented to the Council when the policy was before them.

Commissioner Neustadt asked who the staff liaison for the Transportation and Parking Commission is. Ms. Weaver is the liaison. Commissioner Schnell would like the review team to set a precedent. Ms. Weaver said there was a great opportunity to do that with the new commission. Commissioner Schnell spoke about an orientation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Wrobel appreciates the work being done. He reminded all there are pending petitions. He spoke about Darien's traffic calming measures on 75th Street. He is frustrated by the slow process.

Lisa Woodman asked if she would have to go through the petition process again. Mr. Fieldman said she would not and her petition would be taken to the commission. Mr. Millette stated there were nine pending petitions. Ms. Woodman had concerns about **nutronics** on her street.

Mr. Fieldman said that the analysis would be as flexible as possible. The policy and staff were too rigid. The new policy will work on a case-by-case basis with the intent of providing the level of service the customer expects. Ms. Weaver acknowledged that circumstances differ and a practical approach should be taken.

Ms. Woodman asked if her street classification matters. Mr. Fieldman said that Item 3 in the policy says that traffic calming measures may be used on every public street. Commissioner Schnell said there is a difference between a state street and a county street, but a Village street isn't a problem. Commissioner Tully mentioned the difference between speed and volume.

Mr. Wrobel asked for a time table.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Commissioner Schnell asked for a motion. Commissioner Tully moved to approve the further revised material. Commissioner Beckman seconded. The motion passed in a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Schnell asked when the item would be ready for Council. Mr. Fieldman said soon. Mayor Sandack will name the commission members. Within 30 days, the commission will have an orientation meeting; it will then hear petitions at the next meeting. Commissioner Schnell said this would occur in early summer. Mr. Fieldman said he would notify Mr. Wrobel and Ms. Woodman when the Council would be hearing the item.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schnell asked for a motion to adjourn. Commission Beckman moved; Commission Tully seconded.

Original Ordinance - To be struck through



Village of Downers Grove

Official Village Policy Approved by Village Council

Description:	Traffic Calming Program	
Res. or Ord. #:	Res. 2005-11	Effective Date: March 15, 2005
Category:	Engineering and Public Works	
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Council Policy	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amends Previous Policy Dated: 10/21/91
	Description of Previous Policy (if different from above):	
	Combining Inappropriate Use of Local Streets with Traffic Calming	

RESOLUTION 2005-11

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE POLICY OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO TRAFFIC CALMING

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove has heretofore established as part of the Future Land Use for the Village of Downers Grove, the Roadway Classification of streets within the Village including arterial, collector, and local streets; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is necessary and desirable to periodically monitor the roadways to determine traffic volumes, vehicular speeds, parking activity and pedestrian usage; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Village of Downers Grove to maintain, regulate and promote roadway safety in all forms, including, but not limited to motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, etc., on highways and other public thoroughfares of the Village of Downers Grove, while essentially allowing for access to property and for utility rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Downers Grove realizes that in certain circumstances on local streets only, when both vehicular volumes and travel speeds are excessive and threaten the public safety and welfare, such conditions dictate that such public thoroughfares be studied in an effort to restore appropriate levels of vehicular and pedestrian safety; and can result in permanent traffic calming measures designed for and upon local streets only; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the Traffic Calming Program is to develop corrective or mitigating action which proposes to redirect inappropriate local street traffic to a designated arterial or collector roadway and not an adjacent or parallel local street; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

1. That the Village Council will consider the implementation of traffic calming measures as described in this Traffic Calming Program, as deemed appropriate and upon the recommendation of the Parking & Traffic Commission; and

2. That traffic volume and vehicular speed, in combination with roadway features meeting the following criteria, are hereby determined to constitute an inappropriate use on local streets:

a. Local Streets:

- i. Speed limit 25 mph; and
- ii. Residential use 85% (minimum); and
- iii. Neighborhood petition signed by 55% of each affected block
- iv. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes > 500
- v. Street width 40' (maximum)
- vi. Roadway vertical grade < 6%
- vii. Not a sharp horizontal curve
- viii. Recorded vehicular speeds (85 percentile):
 1. general zones 35 mph
 2. school zones 30 mph
 3. adjacent to parks 33 mph
- ix. Inappropriate Use volumes:
 1. AM peak hour volume greater than 9% of the street's 24 hour ADT volume
 2. PM peak hour volume greater than 12% of the street's 24 hour ADT volume

b. Arterial Streets:

- i. Not an Emergency Route (Fire Dept.)
- ii. Not a Stage I Priority Snow Route
- iii. Not a PACE Transit Route

3. That the Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to receive requests from residents or businesses to initiate an investigation of a traffic problem through staff at Public Works to determine whether or not the criteria established in Paragraph 1 are met.

4. That in no case will arterial and collector streets, established as part of the Future Land Use for the Village of Downers Grove, and depicted on the Roadway Classification Map, be eligible for traffic calming measures.

5. That if the criteria established in Paragraph 1 are satisfied, the Public Works staff shall, as soon as practicable, commence a detailed project investigation. The Traffic Calming program consists of two phases: Phase 1 - consideration of low-level non-engineering solutions; Phase 2 - consideration of engineering measures after lesser trials do not succeed. Staff shall follow the Traffic Calming Program flowchart.

6. That the results of each specific traffic calming investigative report shall be summarized and presented to the Parking and Traffic Commission. Staff shall also tabulate all the Traffic Calming projects for presentation to Parking & Traffic Commission at a separate meeting (generally in the fall of each year) to allow for construction scheduling the following spring.

7. Staff shall forward recommendations from the Parking and Traffic Commission to the Village Council for consideration and approval. The Parking and Traffic Commission shall balance the local and community benefits of the proposed recommendation with the impact of relocated traffic upon other Village roadways.

8. That the Council shall consider the recommendation of the Parking and Traffic Commission in all cases of a proposed Traffic Calming measure, regardless of the origin of the request.

9. The validity of any ordinance or resolution otherwise passed in accordance with applicable law shall not be invalidated, impaired or otherwise affected by non-compliance with any part of a procedure or policy set forth herein.

10. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed.

11. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

Brian J. Krajewski, Mayor

Passed: March 15, 2005

Approved: March 15, 2005

Attest: April K. Holden, Village Clerk