

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 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 Deputy 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.

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION

This item was discussed at the June 10, 2008 Workshop. During that meeting, Council requested that Section 2.a.3. of the Transportation and Parking enabling ordinance be altered to include language requiring petitioners to obtain five signatures from neighboring residents of different addresses. Staff has included the suggested language and recommends 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.

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY**

INITIATED: Village Attorney **DATE:** June 17, 2008
(Name)

RECOMMENDATION FROM: _____ **FILE REF:** _____
(Board or Department)

NATURE OF ACTION:

STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:

- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Motion
- Other

Motion to Adopt “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION PROCEDURES ”, as presented.

SUMMARY OF ITEM:

Adoption of the attached ordinance shall amend certain Parking & Traffic Commission procedures.

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:

Traffic Calming

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TRANSPORTATION & PARKING 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. Only one (1) signature may be submitted per residence.
 4. Name and contact information of one resident who will function as the contact person with the Public Works Department.

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- 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