

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

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): Combining Inappropriate Use of Local Streets with Traffic Calming	

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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