

Attachment E- Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title & Purpose of this Initiative: The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for the Town Council to discuss the residential traffic calming process (Residential Traffic Management Plan) and how it might be simplified.

Department: Planning, Zoning & Inspections

What are the racial and equity impacts?

What are the Racial and Equity impacts? The Residential Traffic Management Plan provides a petition-based, data-driven process to evaluate and implement traffic calming infrastructure along residential street(s). Applicants are required to submit a request form with a short description of the concern. Staff prepares a map showing an area of interest (AOI) based on the information in the request and a spreadsheet with the names and addresses of residents living within the AOI and provides both to the applicant. The applicant is asked to gather signatures of at least 75 percent of the owners within the AOI to indicate their support of the application. The request form and process are currently available to all residents. There is no fee associated with submitting or handling these requests.

Who is or will experience community burden?

Who is or will experience community burden? The process of collecting signatures for the petition can be onerous. Requests involving a large AOI can require more than 100 signatures which takes time to collect, particularly for residents working long hours, residents who do not know their neighbors, or residents with mobility issues. Applicants living in subdivisions with active listservs or Nextdoor accounts may use those networks as a way to connect with neighbors and garner support for traffic calming. Residents in smaller neighborhoods may find it easier to get consensus going door to door, particularly if residents have lived in the area for a long time.

Once a petition is submitted, traffic counts completed and a conceptual traffic calming plan designed, the proposal is shared with the neighborhood, the Transportation Advisory Board and Town Council. Residents may experience burden if they do not share the majority opinion of the traffic concern and/or proposal solution and have to offer an alternative and/or reject the proposal.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

Who is or will experience community benefit? The program provides an opportunity for residents to convey their concerns with vehicular traffic volume and speed within their neighborhood, and to request additional Police patrols and/or the installation of physical

infrastructure such as stop signs or traffic calming measures—thereby improving safety along local streets.

What are the root causes of inequity?

What are the root causes of inequity? Lack of representation among decision makers, lack of a seat at the table, lack of information about the RTMP or notice about meetings about the proposed traffic calming plan. Working individuals, particularly shift workers, families with young children or caregivers may find it difficult to attend public meetings, may be reticent to speak in a public setting and may have an overall distrust in government and governmental processes, based on personal experiences and/or examples of structural racism in government decisions, particularly those relating to land use.

..What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy? Time and other resources applied to this process might prevent development and implementation of another, possibly more effective strategy for ensuring that Town streets are safe for all users, especially those most vulnerable including youth, persons with physical or mobility limitations, persons who are new to the area and unfamiliar with travel behavior/traffic patterns. Slower vehicle speeds can also result in lower numbers of collisions with the animal population. When a request results in a constructed improvement, unintended consequences can include short-term impacts such as noise, dust, traffic interruptions. Additional infrastructure—traffic calming measures—are not always sufficient to slow vehicular speeds and/or reduce traffic volume. Changes in traffic patterns, pavement markings, signage, and traffic signals can be confusing, even if the installation is in accordance with state standards.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? Provide clear information with images, when possible, to discuss traffic calming proposals. Try to provide realistic expectations of the effectiveness of the different types of traffic calming devices. Work with the Fire Department to select measures that do not hinder emergency access. Ensure sufficient staff resources/allocation of staff assignments to schedule traffic counts within a standard period of time after the installation to evaluate success. Set up a follow-up meeting with residents to discuss their experiences with the installation. Explore removing petition requirement and establishing an overall approach to assessing speeding/unsafe behaviors and a method for prioritizing and scheduling changes that involves community involvement to specify preferences.