

Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, September 11, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval of an updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy and Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines. The updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy is intended to enhance road safety for all road users and improve the quality of life within Vaughan's communities. The policy provides a data-based framework for implementing traffic calming measures that align with national standards and best practices tailored to Vaughan's transportation network.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan continues to make road safety, traffic management, and sustainable travel modes a top priority. Neighbourhood traffic calming is a key strategy to continue to achieve the City's transportation policies and better meet residents' expectations.
- The City's 2010 Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy and Procedures required updating to better align with the latest Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines and industry best practices, ensuring effective and sustainable traffic calming measures.
- The updated policy provides an evidence-based framework for integrating traffic calming into existing local streets and new developments, addressing traffic and road safety concerns proactively as Vaughan continues to grow.

Recommendations

1. That the updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy (Attachment 1) and the Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines (Attachment 2) be approved;
2. That the 2010 Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy and Procedures be repealed;
3. That staff be authorized to administer the updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy (Attachment 1); and
4. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Region of York, York Regional Police, York Region District School Board and York Region Catholic District School Board.

Background

Traffic calming is a fundamental component of the road safety program under the MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy.

MoveSmart was approved by Vaughan Council in 2021 to establish a safer, more efficient, and sustainable transportation system for the city. The Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy aligns with other MoveSmart initiatives to support Road Safety and Sustainable Mobility, including the Speed Limit Policy and the Safe Routes to School Program, contributing to a comprehensive and coordinated approach to transportation management.

A Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan was developed to guide the City's traffic calming program and advance road safety and mobility across its road network.

The Neighbourhood Area Traffic Calming Policy, Design and Speed Management Plan, also known as the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan, aligns with the Term of Council priority to continue to enhance the reliability and safety of Vaughan's road network and infrastructure. The objective is to continue to effectively address speed management in existing communities and facilitate the integration of these measures into new developments.

Previous Reports/Authority

Establishing Speed Limits on City Roadways, Extract from Council meeting of June 22, 2021 (Item 1, Report No. 31)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2021, \(Item 1, Report No. 31, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)](#)

MoveSmart – Mobility Management Strategy, Extract from Council meeting of March 10, 2021 (Item 1, Report No. 10)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2021, \(Item 1, Report No. 10, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy Annual Progress Report 2022, Extract from Council Meeting on March 22, 2022 (Item 1, Report No. 11)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2022 \(Item 1, Report No. 11, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy 2nd Annual Progress Report, Extract from Council Meeting on March 21, 2023 (Item 3, Report No. 13)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023 \(Item 3, Report No.13, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy 2024 Annual Report, Extract from Council meeting minutes of March 26, 2024 (Item 1, Report No. 9)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2024, \(Item 1, Report No. 9, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

2023 Vaughan Transportation Plan, Extract from Council Meeting on May 16, 2023 (Item 2, Report No. 22)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2023, \(Item 2, Report No. 22, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

Vaughan Complete Streets Guide, Extract from Council Meeting on January 30th, 2024 (Item 1, Report No. 4)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2024, \(Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Implementation Plan, Extract from Council Meeting on December 12, 2023 (Item 1, Report No. 50)

[Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023, \(Item 1, Report No. 50, of the Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\)\)](#)

Analysis and Options

The Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan resulted in new policies, procedures, a Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines for planning and administering traffic calming.

The plan development process involved analyzing transportation industry standards, best practices, existing conditions, and feedback from residents and stakeholders. Pilot projects in five neighbourhoods (one in each ward) were used to test these policies and

various traffic calming measures, including speed cushions, planters, year-round flex posts, temporary curb extensions, pavement markings, custom boulevard signage, and enhanced radar message boards. The City has incorporated industry standards, best practices, and guidelines, including the TAC Guide to Traffic Calming, MoveSmart Mobility Strategy, Vaughan Transportation Master Plan, and Complete Streets Guidelines to ensure alignment with City strategies.

The combination of rigorous research, practical applications from pilot projects, and extensive community engagement has resulted in an updated, comprehensive, and adaptive Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy. This policy is designed to be flexible and allows for adjustments based on ongoing data collection and community feedback. This dynamic approach ensures that Vaughan's traffic calming measures remain effective and relevant in addressing evolving traffic safety priorities.

The updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy provides a structured framework for identifying, evaluating, and implementing traffic calming measures on municipal roads.

The policy applies to roads with posted speed limits of 60 km/h and lower, focusing on continuing to enhance road safety and reducing traffic infiltration. The updated policy outlines a five-stage process for implementing traffic calming measures. This includes initiation and issue validation, warrant analysis, plan development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The process involves identifying and validating traffic calming needs, conducting technical assessments, developing detailed plans, executing the measures, and monitoring their effectiveness post-implementation.

A Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines was developed to provide a strategic framework for implementing traffic calming measures.

The Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines offer strategies for traffic calming and retrofitting existing streets in alignment with Vaughan's standards and Provincial Acts. They emphasize the need for a sensitive approach to street design, sound engineering judgment, and consulting with relevant guides and policies. The toolbox establishes street design values and results from collaboration between City staff and planning professionals. It encourages innovative design solutions and provides flexibility while incorporating engineering practices and various sources of guidance.

The comprehensive range of traffic calming measures is divided into three levels:

- **Level 1:** includes quick-build, low-cost solutions like flexible signs, temporary speed cushions, and on-road pavement markings.
- **Level 2:** consists of permanent, lower-cost projects like asphalt speed cushions.
- **Level 3:** involves high-cost, permanent projects like curb extensions and roundabouts.

Incorporating traffic calming into new developments will be achieved through policies and engineering design standards.

Seamless integration and alignment are important to implement policies as intended. As a first step, this approach will ensure that new communities will be designed with traffic calming and road safety in mind through the development review process and City policies. This approach will also ensure that the City has the latest and best traffic calming measures available in any new communities before the assumption of new communities, should they be required.

Overall, this strategy aligns with Vaughan's Official Plan by promoting Complete Streets, supporting urban growth centres, encouraging sustainable transportation, enhancing walkability, and fostering economic growth, ensuring that new developments support the City's overall goals. The relevant design guidelines and standards involving development requirements will be updated, as appropriate, to incorporate modern traffic calming measures such as speed cushions, raised crosswalks, and curb extensions, reflecting the latest research and urban design principles.

Financial Impact

Funding to support the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy will be requested through the annual budget process.

Staff will evaluate and prioritize new traffic calming projects based on the condition assessment of existing assets, traffic data analysis, and risk-based warrants. To identify prioritized projects, an annual report will be delivered to Council. Staff will also assess the opportunity to offset funding through Automated Speed Enforcement.

Operational Impact

Ongoing collaboration and coordination will be undertaken to plan and deliver traffic calming across the City.

To plan and deliver traffic calming, ongoing collaboration and coordination will be undertaken among the Transportation and Fleet Management Services Department, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management Department, Development Engineering Department, Infrastructure Delivery, and Communications, Marketing and Engagement Department. Coordination will ensure that traffic calming initiatives balance operational requirements of municipal services such as emergency response, public transit, waste collection, and winter maintenance. Operational considerations have been integrated into the plan development process, formulating policies, toolboxes, and guidelines.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy aligns with the collaborative York Region and local municipal partnership Vision Zero Traveller Safety Plan, which aims to eliminate severe collisions.

Vaughan's Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy aligns with the broader objective of creating safer and more sustainable communities in York Region. The policy ensures that local traffic calming measures are consistent with regional safety goals, promotes equitable access to safe transportation infrastructure, and enhances the overall quality of life for all residents through a comprehensive approach to traffic calming and regional collaboration.

Conclusion

The updated Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy is an innovative, data-driven approach to enhancing Vaughan's traffic safety, mobility, and community livability.

The updated policy provides a thorough and forward-thinking approach to planning and implementing traffic calming measures in focus areas. It will also serve as a guiding principle in new developments, supplement the Automated Speed Enforcement Program, and support sustainable mobility initiatives by helping to reduce speeds. The toolbox will provide a variety of measures that will offer a consistent and proactive framework context specific to the community's needs and the evolving transportation network.

For more information, please contact: Steven Fantin, Director, Transportation & Fleet Management Services ext. 6141.

Attachments

1. Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy
2. City of Vaughan Traffic Calming Toolbox and Guidelines
3. Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Plan Executive Summary

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