STRATHCONA COUNTY

Policy

Traffic Calming

Policy Statement

Residents of Strathcona County want to live in rural and urban neighbourhoods where vehicle speeds and volumes are consistent with the expected engineering design speeds on residential local and collector roads. The purpose of traffic calming is to reduce the negative effects of motor vehicles due to driver behavior to improve safety for other modes of travel, including walking and cycling within existing neighbourhoods.

Purpose

The purpose of the Traffic Calming Policy is to ensure that residential roads function as they are designed by establishing a framework for the implementation of traffic calming in Strathcona County. The Traffic Calming Policy sets out principles and guidelines for the consideration and prioritization of requests for traffic calming.

Definitions

Traffic Calming means the use of physical features to ensure roads are used as they are intended, as defined in the Strathcona County Design and Construction Standards.

Traffic Calming Plan means a plan that provides the community and County staff with a representation (conceptual design) of the placement of traffic calming features. Where applicable, it will also include a summary of other measures taken to manage traffic in the area (for example, educational or enforcement initiatives).

Guidelines

Consideration of requests for traffic calming and designation of study area will be guided by six principles.

1. **Calm traffic in response to need.** Priority for traffic calming will be given where there are identified speed, volume, shortcutting and/or collision issues, particularly in areas of higher pedestrian volumes.
2. **Identify the root cause of traffic concerns.** In-depth analysis of the problem area and the surrounding network leads to solutions that will reduce or eliminate these root causes.
3. **Quantify the problem.** Sufficient time and resources must be committed to collect complete and accurate data needed to identify the extent of a problem.
4. **Calm traffic in areas, not sites.** Consider traffic calming at a neighbourhood level, rather than on a site-by-site basis. Implementing site-specific traffic calming without considering the larger area can cause the issue to shift from one location to another.
5. **Allocate traffic calming funds effectively.** Coordinate traffic calming with routine road rehabilitation to reduce costs, maximizing the number of traffic calming measures that can be implemented.

6. **Support community-driven traffic calming.** Neighbourhoods demonstrating a high level of support for traffic calming are more likely to support the implementation of a Traffic Calming Plan.

The development of a Traffic Calming Plan will be guided by the following principles.

1. **Avoid restricting access.** Traffic calming solutions should aim to retain access for neighbouring residents and businesses.
2. **Do not impede non-motorized modes of transportation.** Traffic calming measures should be designed to slow drivers while permitting cyclists and pedestrians to travel freely.
3. **Accommodate service and emergency vehicles.** Traffic calming designs must consider services such as transit, garbage collection, snow removal, street cleaning, and emergency services.
4. **Use self-enforcing measures.** Self-enforcing measures inherently require driver compliance due to their geometric design features and do not need constant enforcement.
5. **Involve the community.** Community involvement builds support for the Traffic Calming Plan and ensures effective solutions are developed to address the unique circumstances of the neighbourhood.
6. **Monitor and follow up.** Traffic calming measures are not universally applicable. It is important to monitor applications to identify the successes and failures of specific features in the County.

Policy Record

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