

## **TRAFFIC CALMING CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The purpose of traffic calming is to reduce vehicle speed, volume, and short-cutting of traffic to acceptable levels ("acceptable" for the functional class of a street and the nature of bordering activity). Traffic calming is ideally incorporated into new development, over the past 20 years of residential development, the awareness and benefits of traffic calming strategies have been applied in new development and incorporated into community and neighbourhood redevelopment plans.

Traffic calming is used on local and collector roads. Traffic calming is generally undertaken in locations where the neighbourhood has facilities that attract traffic, like schools, etc., or in locations where neighbourhoods are between traffic generators, making them prone to shortcutting. Traffic calming is also generally applied in areas where roads have driveway accesses and many pedestrians.

Traffic calming is evaluated according to Strathcona County's Traffic Calming Policy <https://www.strathcona.ca/files/files/at-lls-mph-ser-009-040-traffic-calming.pdf>. Traffic calming is considered when the collected traffic study data exceeds the design parameters and expected driving characteristics for the road. Traffic data, including vehicle speed and volume, is collected periodically throughout areas in Strathcona County, typically, when concerns are raised by residents.

### **Traffic Calming Process for existing neighbourhoods**

There are two traffic calming processes that Strathcona County follows.

#### *Resident initiated process:*

A resident, or group of residents, may contact the County to initiate the traffic calming process. A formal request can be made to Transportation Planning and Engineering (TPE) by residents. TPE then conducts preliminary screening to identify issues based on the traffic data and history of complaints. If the issue is validated through the review process, the County contacts affected residents to seek their input for the traffic calming measures. At least 60% of the affected residents must indicate they are 'in support', with a minimum return rate of 30% to move forward with a traffic calming process as described below. If the required support is not achieved, the traffic calming process is terminated.

#### *County initiated process:*

In circumstances where routine investigations or data collection for the purposes of traffic calming identifies a traffic safety issue that falls outside of industry-defined safety parameters for a local or collector road, Strathcona County has a duty of care to correct the problem. In these cases, the installation of traffic calming features may be used to address the concern. These projects will be prioritized above other traffic calming projects for planning and budget allocation, however, preferably constructed in coordination with planned and scheduled neighbourhood road rehabilitation.

To be cost-effective, traffic calming is generally combined with the annual neighbourhood road rehabilitation program. Spot safety improvement projects are also identified, based on the safety needs of certain areas such as crosswalk improvements or intersection improvements through the Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Action Plan.