



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 6/15/2021

ITEM NO: 21

DATE: June 1, 2021
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Accept the Report and Authorize the Temporary Installation of Traffic Calming Devices for Shannon Road Between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road (CIP No. 812-9910 Traffic Calming Projects)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council accept the report and authorize the temporary installation of traffic calming devices for Shannon Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road (CIP No. 812-9910 Traffic Calming Projects).

BACKGROUND:

The adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21-2024/25 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget designates funding for the on-going Traffic Calming Projects (CIP No. 812-9910).

In accordance to the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, residents of Shannon Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road submitted a petition in January 2019 to be considered for a traffic calming project. Shannon Road is a neighborhood collector street within the project limits. Staff reviewed the petition, then proceeded with the collection of speed and traffic volume data to determine if Shannon Road qualifies for the traffic calming project. To qualify per the Town's Traffic Calming Policy, 85th percentile speeds of vehicles traveling through the neighborhood must exceed the posted speed limit by 5 miles per hour (MPH), or the average daily traffic volume must exceed 3,000 vehicles per day for collector streets. Based on the data collected, Shannon Road qualified for the traffic calming program under both traffic speeds and volume. The Shannon Road traffic calming project request was placed on the program waiting list while other traffic calming projects were being processed or completed.

PREPARED BY: Mike Vroman
Senior Traffic Engineer

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, Finance Director, Parks and Public Works Director and Town Engineer

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DISCUSSION:

On November 18, 2020 and April 22, 2021, staff from Parks and Public Works (PPW), the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department (LGMSPD), and the Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) held online community meetings with the Shannon Road neighbors to discuss traffic calming options for the project site and to build consensus on a traffic calming plan. In addition to social media and website posts, over five hundred postcard notifications for each meeting were mailed to residents on or near Shannon Road. Residents from Shannon Road, Englewood Avenue, Hilow Road, Topping Way, Marchmont Drive, Loma Street, and other nearby streets attended the meetings.

At the first meeting, PPW staff explained the Traffic Calming Policy process and presented the data on traffic speeds and volume. LGMSPD and SCCFD provided feedback on the manageable impact of the traffic calming devices on emergency services and answered residents' questions and concerns. The attending residents also expressed their concerns related to speeding and stop sign violations, as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety in the neighborhood especially for the many school children using Shannon Road. Residents discussed potential traffic calming options to mitigate these issues, and there was a consensus at the meeting to consider speed humps.

At the second online community meeting on April 22, 2021, staff presented a proposed traffic calming plan to install five speed humps with signs and pavement markings on Shannon Road (see Attachment 1 for the proposed plan). Three speed humps are proposed between Cherry Blossom Lane and Short Road and could be installed by fall 2021. Two proposed speed humps between Los Gatos Boulevard and Cherry Blossom Lane are planned to be installed with the Shannon Road Pedestrian and Bikeways Improvements Project in FY 2022/23, if approved. There was consensus at this meeting among the residents on Shannon Road to install the proposed speed humps as presented.

A few residents that attended the second community meeting, who may not live on Shannon Road, expressed that speed humps may slow down emergency responses, depreciate home values in the neighborhood, and slow down commuters. Residents who do not reside on Shannon Road also inquired why they were not allowed to vote on the traffic calming program on Shannon Road. Staff explained that only those residents whose properties abut the street and are most affected by the speeding are eligible to vote on the traffic calming plan per the Town's practice. Staff informed the residents that the Town has installed speed humps and other traffic calming devices on thirteen other streets, including four neighborhood collectors and two hillside collector streets. Speed humps have proven to slow down vehicular traffic on streets where installed.

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DISCUSSION (continued):

As per the Traffic Calming Policy procedure, staff mailed out ballots on May 3 to all 73 residents on Shannon Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road. Of the votes submitted, a two-thirds (66.7%) majority in support of the project is needed to move forward with the speed humps per the Policy. The postmarked ballots were due on May 20, 2021. Staff received 54 timely responses with 48 in favor of speed humps (89% in support) and six not in support. The support for speed humps on Shannon Road exceeded the required two-thirds majority.

If Council approves this item, PPW staff will work with existing Town contractors or obtain bids in the open market for the three speed humps on Shannon Road between Cherry Blossom Lane and Short Road to be installed by this fall. Two speed humps between Los Gatos Boulevard and Cherry Blossom Lane would be installed later as part of the Shannon Road Pedestrian and Bikeway Improvements Project in FY 2022/23.

Four to six months after the installation of the first three speed humps, staff will conduct additional traffic studies to determine the project effectiveness in slowing down traffic. Additionally, staff will conduct before and after traffic counts on Kennedy Road to assess the traffic volume impact, if any, from the installation of speed humps on Shannon Road. A few residents were concerned of traffic shifting over to Kennedy Road to avoid speed humps on Shannon Road. Staff will then contact the Shannon Road residents to inform them of the new data collected, conduct a final vote, and based on the final vote, return to Council for consideration to make the speed humps on Shannon Road permanent.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Town Council accept the report and authorize the temporary installation of five speed humps as the traffic calming plan on Shannon Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road.

COORDINATION:

This project has been coordinated with the Finance Department, the LGMSPD, and the SCCFD.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this traffic calming project has been allocated through the adopted FY 2020/21-2024/25 Capital Improvement Program Budget. Each year, \$10,000 in GFAR funds are approved for the Traffic Calming Projects.

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FISCAL IMPACT (continued):

Traffic calming projects require significant staff time investments due to the number of community meetings and correspondence as well as design and engineering. The annual allocated funds are not sufficient to deliver the requested number of projects. To facilitate delivery, staff seeks to combine the installation of traffic calming solutions with other projects, typically the annual Street Resurfacing project. In addition, part time unbudgeted staff deliver are used for project delivery to ensure full time staff can support more complex efforts.

The fund balance in the Traffic Calming Project is \$19,135. Construction and staff costs for this project total an estimated \$116,000. Without relying on funds from the Street Resurfacing Project, few traffic calming projects would be completed. Staff will include this topic in a Capital Improvement Program discussion tentatively targeted for an August Council meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is a project defined under CEQA as being Categorical Exempt (Section 15301c – existing streets, sidewalks, trails, and similar facilities). A Notice of Exemption will be filed.

Attachments:

1. Temporary Traffic Calming Proposal - Shannon Road between Los Gatos Boulevard and Short Road
2. Public Communication Received Prior to 11:00 am on June 10, 2021