CITY OF WEST KELOWNA

POLICY

Title: Traffic Calming
Department: Community Development
Policy Number: 0033
File Number: 0340-50-0033

1. Purpose

1.1. This policy establishes the City's framework for the assessment and application of traffic calming.

2. Scope

2.1. This policy outlines the City's approach to receiving, evaluating, and implementing all requests pertaining to implementation of traffic calming measures within the City's road network.

3. Definitions

3.1. **"Traffic Calming"** means physical measures designed to improve safety and livability on roadways by reducing vehicle speeds, discouraging shortcutting traffic, and improving conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

3.2. **"Obstructions"** means a traffic calming measure that restricts or redirects specific vehicle movements to influence traffic patterns and discourage shortcutting traffic.

3.3. **"Vertical Deflection"** means a traffic calming measure that changes the elevation of the roadway surface to encourage lower vehicle speeds.

3.4. **"Horizontal Deflection"** means a traffic calming measure that alters a vehicle's travel path to reduce speeds and influence driver behaviour.

4. Policy Statement

4.1. The City may implement traffic calming measures where warranted to improve safety, support neighbourhood livability, reduce vehicle speeds, and discourage shortcutting traffic.

4.2. Traffic calming measures considered by the City may include:

a) Obstructions;
b) Vertical Deflections; and
c) Horizontal Deflections.

4.3. Traffic calming decisions will:

a) Prioritize public safety;
b) Be informed by technical analysis;
c) Consider roadway function and network impacts; and
d) Consider emergency services, municipal operations, and accessibility requirements.

5. Procedure

5.1. Transportation Network

Traffic calming measures shall be considered in relation to the function, classification, and intended use of the roadway within the City's transportation network.

5.2. Guiding Principles

In evaluating traffic calming requests and developing traffic calming plans, staff shall:

a) identify and communicate the traffic or safety concern being addressed;
b) collect and analyze relevant traffic and safety data;
c) consider the source and contributing factors of the issue;
d) consider education and enforcement measures where appropriate;
e) evaluate impacts at a neighbourhood level;
f) minimize impacts to property access, emergency services, public transit, maintenance activities, agriculture, and business operations;
g) prioritize self-enforcing traffic calming measures where feasible; and
h) monitor implemented traffic calming measures to assess effectiveness and identify unintended impacts.

5.3. Approaches to Traffic Calming

i. Traffic calming initiatives may be undertaken through:

a) new development and redevelopment projects;
b) requests from residents or community groups;
c) staff-identified transportation or safety initiatives; or
d) transportation planning studies and capital projects.

ii. Traffic calming on arterial and collector roadways shall be evaluated with consideration for roadway function, network impacts, and consultation with applicable road authorities where required.

5.4. Traffic Calming Evaluation Process

i. Where a traffic calming concern has been identified, staff shall undertake the following evaluation process:

a) identify and define the traffic or safety concern issues and locations;
b) evaluate scope and determine the extent of the affected area;
c) engage with residents;
d) collect and evaluate data;
e) develop concepts;
f) consult on options; and

g) prepare a traffic calming plan.

ii. Staff shall evaluate traffic calming requests using technical evaluation criteria and relevant traffic and safety data to determine whether traffic calming measures may be warranted.

5.5. Standard Design Options and Alternatives

i. Traffic calming measures shall generally be designed in accordance with current industry standards and recognized engineering practices.
ii. The City may utilize temporary or interim or pilot traffic calming devices prior to installation.

5.6. Community Support

i. Community engagement results shall be considered as one factor in evaluating traffic calming initiatives.
ii. Staff may consider:
    a) participation rates;
    b) level of community support; and
    c) level of opposition.

5.7. Post Evaluation & Monitoring

i. Following implementation, staff shall monitor traffic calming measures to evaluate their effectiveness and identify and unintended impacts.
ii. Monitoring may include the collection and review of traffic volumes, operating speeds, collision data, community feedback, and other relevant information.
iii. Staff will report findings to Council.

5.8. Refinement or Removal

i. Traffic calming measures may be modified, replaced, or removed where:
    a) the original traffic or safety concern no longer exists;
    b) the measure is determined to be ineffective;
    c) the measure creates unintended operational or maintenance impacts; or
    d) roadway conditions or transportation priorities have changed.
ii. Prior to modifying or removing a traffic calming measure, staff shall consider technical data, operational impacts, and community feedback.
iii. Any recommended capital improvements or removals requiring funding shall be considered through the City's capital planning and budgeting process.

6. Approval

Approved by	☐ CAO	☒ Mayor and Council
Approval date	September 22, 2026	
Council Resolution #	C254/26	

Signature	*[Original signed by Mayor]* MAYOR

7. Additional Information

Category	☒ Council	☐ Administrative
Related procedure	☐ Yes	☒ No
Procedure number		
Date of last review		