



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 3, 2023

Re: Setting a Public Hearing for the Russell Boulevard Traffic Calming Project

Executive Summary

Setting a public hearing for May 1, 2023, to consider the installation of traffic calming devices on Russell Boulevard between Broadway and Rollins Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$20,000.

Discussion

Russell Boulevard scored as the 6th highest priority project within the 2021 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), with a score of 76.00 out of a possible 100. The scoring system takes a number of factors into consideration including speed, volume, pedestrian generators in the area, proximity to schools, bike routes, and recent crash history. The majority of the scoring (2/3) is based on speed and volume of vehicles. Russell Boulevard scored at the 85th percentile speed of 40 mph and has over 700 vehicles traveling on it per day.

Two Interested Parties (IP) meetings were held for this project. The first IP meeting was held on October 10, 2022. The second IP meeting was held on January 30, 2023.

During the first IP meeting, staff gathered information from the public and listened to potential solutions. The majority of those in attendance and providing comments were supportive of traffic calming efforts.

Following the first IP meeting, transportation advocacy organization Local Motion held a “pop-up” horizontal traffic calming event with the neighborhood. Temporary horizontal calming features, including bulb-out islands and a median island, were installed. Horizontal deflection hinders the ability of a motorist to drive in a straight line by creating a horizontal shift in the roadway. This shift forces a motorist to slow the vehicle in order to comfortably navigate the measure. Feedback from this event received by Local Motion is included in the IP1 Public Comments documentation. The feedback from this event indicates residents on Russell Boulevard do not support the implementation of horizontal calming.

Preliminary plans were developed and presented during the second IP meeting. Mixed support for traffic calming was received during this comment period.

Several comments were received requesting the implementation of signing to reduce operating speeds on Russell Boulevard. In response to these comments, two 25 mph “Kid Friendly” speed limit signs were installed on Russell Boulevard. These signs were left in place for three weeks and speed data was collected. The 85th percentile speeds along Russell



Boulevard have remained constant or increased compared to the speed data collected in 2019.

The implementation of Level 1 traffic calming (enhanced speed limit signing) has been ineffective at reducing operating speeds on Russell Boulevard. Staff would like to proceed with the construction of five speed humps on Russell Boulevard during the 2023 construction season.

The calming devices will be located at the following locations:

- Speed hump on Russell Boulevard near 101 Russell Boulevard
- Speed hump on Russell Boulevard near 209 Russell Boulevard
- Speed hump on Russell Boulevard near 403 Russell Boulevard
- Speed hump on Russell Boulevard near 503 Russell Boulevard
- Speed hump on Russell Boulevard near 509 Russell Boulevard

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The estimated cost for the installation of a series of five speed humps, including signs and markings, is \$20,000 paid from Annual Traffic Calming Funds.

Long-Term Impact: Staff anticipates the replacement of the traffic calming devices every 15 years.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
01/30/2023	IP Meeting Held
02/06/2023	R18-23- Accepting the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program 2022 Year End Report Summary; authorizing staff to complete the installation of traffic calming devices on Smith Drive and Louisville Drive; authorizing the installation of traffic calming devices on Ridgefield Road, Ridgemont, Highridge Drive, and South Garth Avenue; authorizing staff to complete the public improvement process for the proposed installation of



City of Columbia

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	traffic calming devices on Audubon Drive, Shepard Boulevard, Manor Drive, Russell Boulevard, and Northland Drive; authorizing staff to pursue traffic calming projects on Spencer Avenue, Garden Drive, Hanover Boulevard, and Hulen Drive; authorizing staff to continue to address Level 1 traffic calming projects per the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program guidelines
10/10/2022	IP Meeting Held
02/21/2022	R24-22- Accepting the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program 2021 Year End Report Summary; authorizing the installation of traffic calming devices on Bray Avenue; authorizing staff to complete the public improvement process for the proposed installation of traffic calming devices on Smith Drive, Louisville Drive, Proctor Drive, Audubon Drive, Shepard Boulevard, Ridgefield Road, Ridgmont and Highridge Drive; authorizing staff to pursue traffic calming projects on Garth Avenue, Manor Drive, Russell Boulevard and Northland Drive.

Suggested Council Action

Adopt the resolution setting a public hearing for May 1, 2023 for the installation of traffic calming devices on Russell Boulevard between Broadway and Rollins Road.