

**Subject:** Revision of Policy S801-02 for Neighbourhood Traffic Management

**Recommendation:**

**THAT Committee receive Report #2019-0142 and recommend that Council approve the revised Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy S801-02.**

**Background:**

The Town of Pelham is responsible for ensuring roadways serve the needs of all users such as cars, transit, pedestrians including those with accessibility needs, cyclists, emergency vehicles and snow removal equipment. When the rules of the road are not followed, residents may no longer feel safe walking or riding their bikes on the street, in these cases traffic calming measures may be needed to restore the street to its intended function in the neighbourhood.

Every year the Town receives numerous complaints or concerns from residents regarding speeding, traffic volumes and/or cut through traffic in residential areas.

While some residents perceive they have a solution to traffic issues in their neighbourhood, using the wrong tool or design can potentially create additional safety issues in the area while not addressing the initial concern.

Traffic calming is a contentious subject and should be dealt with in a clear, concise and transparent manner that will meet the needs and expectations of the community. The revised Public Works Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy (Appendix A) outlines how investigations into traffic calming measures should be initiated and implemented based on the experience gained by the Town of Pelham and other Ontario municipalities over the last decade.

## **Analysis:**

In 2014 the Public Works and Utilities Department as it then was introduced the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy (Appendix B) to provide a process for planning neighborhood traffic calming measures in a consistent and objective manner.

Since the policy was approved, staff have responded to a number of citizen concerns regarding speeding on residential roads and have received numerous requests for both the installation and removal of traffic calming measures.

The existing policy states that the Town of Pelham will deal with traffic calming requests in a consistent and objective manner; however, it does not provide guidance for staff or concerned citizens to follow. The lack of procedural frame work within the policy has caused frustration to both staff and citizens attempting to address traffic related issues in identified neighbourhoods. Recent examples include: (1) opposition to the Chicane on Haist Street; (2) the Mini-traffic circle pilot on Look-out Street; and the (3) installation of an un-warranted 4-way Stop on Hurricane Road and Station Street.

The proposed revision of the policy is meant to provide a comprehensive process for responding to complaints regarding speeding and traffic safety concerns. It will also help to educate residents on traffic calming techniques and design, so that they may understand the rationale behind the Town's decision making process.

## **Financial Considerations:**

The process allows for time to attempt passive measures before a permanent design is developed, and acceptance is gained through public input. The implementation of the design may be affected by the availability of capital funding, and will require approval from Council through the budget process.

It is anticipated that the pre-screening process will reduce the amount of time spent responding to concerns from low volumetric roads and will allow staff to focus on areas where traffic calming will have the greatest impact.

Although the frequency of traffic calming requests are considered reasonable at this time, as traffic volume and concerns increase due to growth, implementation of the policy is likely to increase the work load on Engineering and Operations staff beyond their current capabilities.

**Alternatives Reviewed:**

One alternative that was reviewed included the provision that if physical traffic calming measures are required, such as the installation of speed cushions or realignment of curbs, that they be installed during future capital road reconstruction, or repair projects. This alternative would mean that the implementation of traffic calming would often be delayed for several years leading to greater public frustration over perceived inaction by the Town to address the issues.

**Strategic Plan Relationship: Build Strong Communities and Cultural Assets**

The proposed revision to the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy will work to Build Strong Communities by encouraging public involvement in the traffic calming process, thereby, preserving and enhancing the quality of Pelham communities.

**Consultation:**

Town of Pelham staff analyzed the traffic calming policies of several Ontario Municipalities including: City of Hamilton, City of London, City of Niagara Falls, and the City of Thorold.

**Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Appendix A – Proposed Revision to Policy S801-02 Neighborhood Traffic Management.

Appendix B – Existing Policy S801-02 Neighborhood Traffic Management (2014)

**Prepared and Recommended by:**

Jason Marr, P. Eng.  
Director of Public Works

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

David Cribbs, BA, MA, JD, MPA  
Chief Administrative Officer