

Transportation Commission

COUNCIL CONSENT

December 10, 2002

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Transportation Commission

Subject: Public Consultation Regarding Traffic Calming Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council not place conditions or requirements on traffic calming implementation being considered in the future, such as the need to achieve 65 percent respondent support from a survey, and authorize the Office of Transportation to determine the appropriate public consultation prior to the installation of any permanent traffic calming measures.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The cost of conducting a follow-up survey can be substantial. For example, the most recent Willard/LeConte/Bateman mailing of this type of survey resulted in the following expenses:

Costs for items already completed:

Professional staff time including survey design, data information:	\$4,216
<u>Survey copies and postage for mailing:</u>	<u>\$2,900</u>
Subtotal:	\$7,116

Projected costs for anticipated work:

Professional staff time to conduct survey analysis and reporting:	\$1,360
<u>Support staff time for answering questions, and emails:</u>	<u>\$1,180</u>
Subtotal:	\$2,540

Total:	\$9,656
--------	---------

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS:

The Transportation Commission generally supports the implementation of traffic calming measures, particularly where they are designed to encourage moderate and reduced vehicle speeds, and also additional bicycle use.

On Tuesday, October 15, 2002, the Berkeley City Council moved to have staff obtain a 65 percent or greater affirmative response on the traffic calming surveys for the Willard, LeConte and Bateman neighborhoods prior to implementation of the traffic calming plan for that area.

BACKGROUND:

During the Transportation Commission's regular meeting of October 17, 2002, the Commission received a verbal update from staff on traffic calming projects within the City, as usual. At that time, we discussed the recent Berkeley City Council debate about traffic calming proposals in the Willard/LeConte/Bateman neighborhoods. The City Council requested that staff proceed with their intent to survey households in the vicinity of proposed traffic calming measures to gauge neighbor support before the implementation phase; however, whereas staff were going to use a simple majority of respondents as an indication of neighbor support, City Council requested that at least 65 percent of respondents in favor be used as the threshold before proceeding with implementation.

Furthermore, for each measure proposed, the survey area used by staff was going to be the immediate block of the pinch point, or each block immediately adjacent to a traffic circle intersection. City Council asked that the survey area be larger in each case.

The Transportation Commission generally supports the implementation of traffic calming measures, particularly where they are designed to encourage moderate and reduced vehicle speeds, and also additional bicycle use. Furthermore, traffic calming measures usually should be considered within area traffic management plans, as opposed to on a one-site basis.

The Commission endorses public consultation with the affected neighborhood prior to implementation. However, the Transportation Commission urges the City Council to not place onerous conditions or requirements on traffic calming implementation for future projects, such as the need to achieve 65 percent respondent support from a survey.

Because of the anticipated benefits of traffic calming for neighborhoods and the City as a whole, the Transportation Commission recommended that the Office of Transportation determine the public consultation that should be undertaken for the variety of types and scopes of traffic calming plans that will be proposed. This recommendation is not intended to apply to or influence the survey process already underway for the Willard/LeConte/Bateman traffic calming proposals.

Interested Parties:

Residents of neighborhoods in Berkeley represent interested parties, where traffic calming may be implemented.

Community Outreach:

The Office of Transportation conducts mailings to solicit input and inform residents that traffic calming measures may be installed in their area.

Commission Comments:

At the meeting held on October 17, 2002, the Transportation Commission approved the following motion:

“The Transportation Commission reaffirms its support for a comprehensive neighborhood-wide approach to traffic calming, as well as for traffic calming measures that respond to city-wide concerns such as public safety, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets, reductions in drug dealings in certain

areas, and the implementation of existing area plans and the bicycle plan, and recommends that a specific percentage vote of adjacent blocks not be required as long as appropriate public consultation as determined by the Office of Transportation is carried out prior to the installation of any permanent traffic calming measures.”

Past Council Action:

On Tuesday, October 15, 2002, the Berkeley City Council moved to:

- 1) Approve the staff's plan regarding proposed traffic circles and mid-block one-lane pinch points with direction to staff to continue to consult with neighborhoods and the Bicycle Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission;
- 2) Approve staff's plan for traffic signals on Ashby/Hillegass and other traffic calming measures at Benvenue, Hillegass and Regent north of Ashby;
- 3) Extend this work to also include the Ward Street neighborhood; and
- 4) Consult widely and beyond one block of each proposed measure, and obtain a 65 percent or greater affirmative response on the surveys prior to implementation of the plan for that area.

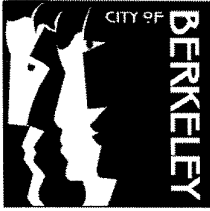
CONTACT PERSON:

Peter K. Hillier, Assistant City Manager for Transportation, 981-7000

Approved:



per _____
Richard Thomason, Transportation Commission Chair



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 10, 2002

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Weldon Rucker, City Manager

Subject: Public Consultation Regarding Traffic Calming Projects

- The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.
- The City Manager takes no position concerning the recommendations of the Commission.
- There has been insufficient time to consider the implications of the recommendations, and I request no action be taken until I have had an opportunity to respond at the meeting of (date of response, leave blank if not used)
- The recommendations contained in this report affect budget and/or other programs. Please refer to the budget process.
- Other: (state other reasons, leave blank if not used)

CONTACT PERSON:

Peter Hillier, Assistant City Manager for Transportation, 981-7000