

Staff Report



Development Services Department

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REPORT TO: Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 5, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Barry Cronkite, Director, Transportation Services
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PREPARED BY: Steven Ryder, Traffic Planning Analyst, Transportation Services
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WARD(S) INVOLVED: Ward 1

DATE OF REPORT: May 9, 2023

REPORT NO.: DSD-2023-209

SUBJECT: Manchester Road Traffic Calming Review

RECOMMENDATION:

That staff be directed to implement the proposed traffic calming plan as outlined in Attachment A (Manchester Road – Proposed Traffic Calming Plan) of report DSD-2023-209.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the implementation of the proposed traffic calming plan for Manchester Road. This traffic calming project was approved for initiation in June 2022, via staff report **DSD-2022-251**.
- The key finding of this report is that the proposed traffic calming plan is supported by the majority of affected residents. The proposed traffic calming measures are expected to help reduce automobile speeds and improve safety for street users.
- The financial implications are approximately \$30,000 which will be taken from the Transportation Services Traffic Calming capital account. Additional operational expenses are not anticipated from the recommended measures.
- Community engagement included notifications and surveys via mailouts, and a virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) held in February 2023. It also included an EngageWR project page to provide more information and project updates, and a single point of contact for residents.
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

BACKGROUND:

Traffic volume and speeding are safety related issues frequently raised by residents of affected neighbourhoods in the City of Kitchener. In response to these issues Council reviewed, updated and subsequently adopted the City's Traffic Calming Policy in 2014 and

established an annual budget to address traffic management issues in residential neighbourhoods. The traffic calming policy outlines a number of evaluation criteria that provide a fair and consistent review of streets and communities, while defining and prioritizing the streets most in need of traffic calming from a traffic safety perspective.

In June 2022, Council received report DSD-2022-251 - “Manchester Road Formal Traffic Calming Review – Initiation Approval”, in which staff recommended that a traffic calming review be initiated for Manchester Road. Upon discussion and deliberation, Council approved the initiation of the traffic calming review for Manchester Road.

Engagement with affected residents for this review, as well as the preliminary design of the traffic calming plan, took place throughout 2022 and early 2023. This traffic calming review used mailouts and an EngageWR project page as the primary means for community engagement, with resident surveys being conducted via the Manchester Road EngageWR project page. A virtual Public Information Centre took place over Zoom on February 1, 2023. The final resident survey to indicate support for, or against, the proposed traffic calming plans was circulated in April 2023. Staff is presenting this report to Committee and Council for approval to construct traffic calming measures by Q4 2023.

REPORT:

Initiation

In August and September 2022, Transportation Services conducted a resident survey for the initiation of a traffic calming review for Manchester Road. The initiation survey results are summarized in the table below:

Initiation Survey Results – Manchester Road Total Study Area	Number	Percent
Total responses received from 68 addresses surveyed	56 (of 68)	82.4%
In favor of initiating the traffic calming review	56 (of 56)	100%
Opposed to initiating the traffic calming review	0 (of 56)	0%

This survey response rate for addresses directly fronting Manchester Road was 82.4% (56 of 68), which met the minimum required participation threshold (25%) for responses. This survey showed that 100% (56 of 56 responses) of directly fronting addresses who answered the survey were in support of initiating the traffic calming review. Staff also incorporated resident feedback collected from this survey into the design of the preliminary preferred traffic calming plan which was presented to the neighbourhood in February 2023.

Review Process

The Public Information Centre (PIC) was held in February 2023 over the Zoom platform. The intent of this PIC was to discuss the traffic calming review process, review results of the resident initiation survey and present a preliminary preferred traffic calming plan to receive resident feedback. Staff also answered both written and verbal questions from residents in attendance.

The preliminary design included five (5) speed humps. Staff reviewed resident feedback received during and after the Public Information Centre (PIC) and determined that no

changes to the preliminary design were required and finalized the proposed traffic calming plan.

Affected agencies were also notified throughout the review and asked to provide feedback on the traffic calming plan. Kitchener Fire did not express any concerns regarding the preferred traffic calming plan. Grand River Transit did not express any concerns as Manchester Road is not a bus route.

Final Survey

On April 21, 2023, Transportation Services staff delivered a final survey notification letter to all directly affected properties along Manchester Road. The intent of the survey was to determine if there is sufficient support for the implementation of the preferred traffic calming plan. As per the City of Kitchener Traffic Calming policy, a minimum of 50% of directly fronting residents must respond to the survey and 60% of the respondents must support the recommended plan. The results of the final survey are as follows:

Final Survey Results – Manchester Road Total Study Area	Number	Percent
Total responses received from 68 addresses surveyed	37 (of 68)	54%
In favor of implementing the proposed traffic calming measures	34 (of 37)	92%
Opposed to implementing the proposed traffic calming measures	3 (of 37)	8%

The final survey response rate for addresses directly fronting Manchester Road was 54%, which met the minimum required participation threshold of 50%. Additionally, the final survey showed that 92% of directly fronting addresses who answered the survey support the implementation of the traffic calming measures, which meets the minimum support threshold of 60%.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports People-friendly Transportation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The total estimated cost for implementing the traffic calming plan is approximately \$30,000. The funds will be taken from the Transportation Services Traffic Calming capital budget account.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the annual Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – Directly affected residents and the neighbourhood of the Manchester Road traffic calming review have received information regarding this review since August 2022. Notification of the Public Information Centre (PIC) was provided through mailouts and via the EngageWR project page. Presentation materials were made available the EngageWR project page after the conclusion of the PIC.

CONSULT – The Manchester Road traffic calming review began with an initiation survey in August 2022. A virtual PIC was held over the Zoom platform in February 2023 in order to answer resident questions and concerns about the traffic calming review process and the preferred traffic calming plan. Transportation Services staff mailed a final survey notification letter to all neighbourhood residents within the Manchester Road study area to measure support for the preferred plan via a survey on the EngageWR project page. Residents were notified that hard copy surveys were available to those who preferred mail and paper format.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

DSD-2022-251 – Manchester Road Formal Traffic Calming Review – Initiation Approval

APPROVED BY:

Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services Department

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Manchester Road – Proposed Traffic Calming Plan