

# Staff Report



Development Services Department

[www.kitchener.ca](http://www.kitchener.ca)

---

**REPORT TO:** Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 2, 2023

**SUBMITTED BY:** Barry Cronkite, Director, Transportation Services,  
519-741-2200 ext. 7738

**PREPARED BY:** Connor Payne, Traffic Technologist, Transportation Services  
519-741-2200 ext.7374

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** Ward 10

**DATE OF REPORT:** September 12, 2023

**REPORT NO.:** DSD-2023-287

**SUBJECT:** Formal Traffic Calming 2023 Initiation Approval

---

## RECOMMENDATION:

That a traffic calming review for Dumfries Avenue between Stirling Avenue North and Edna Street be initiated in 2023.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to recommend Dumfries Avenue between Stirling Avenue North and Edna Street for a Formal Traffic Calming review in 2023.
- The key finding of this report is that Dumfries Avenue between Stirling Avenue North and Edna Street is currently ranked the highest priority of streets on the traffic calming priority list.
- The financial implications include a budget of \$72,500 for the planning, design, and installation of one (1) formal traffic calming project.
- Community engagement will include residents located along Dumfries Avenue, and those in the surrounding catchment areas who are directly affected will be engaged by way of a public meeting, surveys, project webpage, and other forms of communication.
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

## BACKGROUND:

The existing City of Kitchener traffic calming policy was adopted by Council in March 2014 (INS-14-042). The traffic calming policy outlines evaluation criteria that provide a fair and consistent review to prioritize streets that are most in need of traffic calming from a traffic safety perspective. Further, in December 2021 Council approved a Vision Zero Strategy through staff report *DSD-2021-210*. This strategy targets the elimination of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from vehicle collisions in the City of Kitchener.

Vision Zero focuses on areas identified as most in need of safety improvements through a holistic data-driven approach and a hot spot improvement program. To fund these improvements and to strategically advance engineering improvements in problematic areas

\*\*\* This information is available in accessible formats upon request. \*\*\*  
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

through the Vision Zero program, Council supported the reduction in the number of annual traffic calming reviews from three to one annually.

It is also worth noting that Transportation Services manages a traffic calming priority list. This list includes all streets that have had requests for traffic calming measures, either through a request from Council or Kitchener residents. The traffic calming priority list is reviewed on an annual basis with respect to speed, volume, collisions, and other safety factors. Attached is the current traffic calming priority list which has been filtered to display warranted roadways (Attachment 'A').

## **REPORT:**

The intent of traffic calming is to reduce vehicle speeds, deter non-residential traffic from the area and reduce the risk of collisions, thereby increasing safety for all users within the right-of-way. The types of traffic calming measures selected depend on the issues being addressed and the function of the street. Currently, there are a total of 19 locations on the priority list that are warranted for traffic calming.

Dumfries Avenue (between Stirling Avenue North and Edna Street) currently ranks first on the list due to the following:

- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> on the warranted traffic calming list with 52 points;
- Designated as a Minor Neighbourhood Collector Street with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h;
- 2020 recorded 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed (speed at which 85 percent of drivers travel at or below): 57 km/h;
- 2020 recorded AADT (average annual daily traffic): 2938 vehicles.
- 10 collisions reported to the WRPS within the last 3 years
- Identified concerns include speeding, collisions and traffic volumes, which can be addressed through the proposed traffic calming review.

Based on the information above, it is recommended that Dumfries Avenue (between Stirling Avenue North and Edna Street) undergo a formal traffic calming review in 2023 with installation expected in 2024.

## ***PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR FORMAL TRAFFIC CALMING***

In 2021 Transportation Services implemented a modified public engagement process as approved in staff report *DSD-20-036, 2020 Formal Traffic Calming Reviews – Initiation Approval*. The modified approach includes (1) public information centre with more focus on collaborative design earlier in the process, rather than two (2) town hall style meetings. Staff are planning a similar hybrid meeting that will still include a presentation followed by a public design discussion facilitated by staff. The presentation will introduce the traffic calming process, opportunities, and challenges, and provide opportunity to participate in design. Also introduced in 2021 were dedicated *Engage Kitchener* project webpages for each traffic calming review. Project webpages include a news feed with important updates, project timelines, FAQs, project documentation, opportunity for ongoing feedback, and project lead contact information. An Engage Kitchener project page will again be utilized for the proposed Dumfries Avenue formal traffic calming review.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports the delivery of core services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Council has allocated \$72,500 for the completion of one (1) formal traffic calming review in 2023. This budget will be applied to the planning, design, and installation of traffic calming measures.

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

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

Residents located along Dumfries Avenue, and those in the surrounding catchment areas who are affected, will be engaged by way of a minimum of one (1) public meeting, two (2) surveys, and other forms of communication. The project will be assigned to a project manager who will be a single point of contact for residents throughout the course of the traffic calming review, and a dedicated project webpage will be developed and shared with residents.

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:**

- Report Number: INS-14-042 - Amendment to INS 13-106 - Traffic Calming Policy
- Policy No: MUN-STR-1235 - Traffic Calming

**APPROVED BY:** Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services Department

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – 2023 Warranted Traffic Calming Priority List

Attachment B – Dumfries Avenue Proposed Traffic Calming Study Area