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## STAMFORD NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** COVE NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSING CHARRETTE

**DATE:** JUNE 4, 2007                      **TIME:** 6:30 PM

**LOCATION:** KT MURPHY SCHOOL, 19 HORTON STREET

Mani Poola, City Traffic Engineer, welcomed the attendees and introduced the project. Najib Habesch, Project Manager, discussed the charrette process. This is the closing charrette and it is the second of two charrettes. The first charrette was aimed at gathering input from the community. Following the opening charrette the project team analyzed all of the identified issues and prepared a neighborhood traffic calming plan addressing them. During this evening's charrette that plan will be presented the community will have the opportunity to critique and make additions to it before it is finalized. Residents are also encouraged to submit additional comments to the project team via phone, e-mail, or the project website ([www.stamfordtrafficcalming.com](http://www.stamfordtrafficcalming.com)). Updates including meeting minutes, the neighborhood traffic calming plans, and other information will be posted on the website.

National traffic calming expert Dan Burden gave a presentation which detailed the benefits of traffic calming and described a wide variety of specific treatments. Highlights include the following:

- Pedestrian survival following a collision is directly related to vehicular speed.
- A driver's peripheral vision decreases as speed increases.
- According to a study by Appleyard, interaction between neighbors decreases as traffic speeds and volumes increase.
- Appleyard also studied the size of the area which people consider part of their homes. On streets with low volumes and speeds residents considered both sides of the street to be part of their home, while on streets with fast speeds on high volumes residents didn't even consider the front of their houses to be part of their homes.
- Traffic calming is a way of improving quality of life, safety, and sense of community.
- Most communities initially take a reactive approach to traffic calming which involves unwarranted stop signs and speed humps. Unwarranted stop signs lead to speed spiking while the overuse of speed humps delays emergency response vehicles. The approach which Stamford is currently taking will result in a citywide traffic calming master plan. This approach is much more proactive and effective.



- The devices in the traffic calming toolbox can be grouped into three categories – visual treatments, horizontal treatments, and vertical treatments.

#### Visual Treatments

- Visual treatments are the first option that should be considered when addressing a traffic issue. They usually have the greatest impact, are the most aesthetically pleasing, and are the least expensive treatments.
- Road diets can be implemented by simply changing the lane markings on a street. Road diets involve either using narrower or fewer lanes. They result in slower speeds and fewer crashes because they force drivers to pay closer attention to the road.
- Trees in medians or on the sides of the roads discourage speeding.
- On street parking reduces the width of the travel lanes and thus prevent speeding.
- Parking chicanes involve alternating parking from one side of the street to another. They prevent drivers from having a straight path on which to accelerate.
- Pocket parking protects parked vehicles and limit roadway width.
- On very wide streets angle parking can be implemented. Angle parking increases the number of spaces available, is aesthetically pleasing, and reduces roadway width.

#### Horizontal Treatments

- Crosswalks alert the driver that they are entering an area reserved for pedestrians.
- Medians narrow roads and prevent drivers from sling-shotting around curves.
- Refuge islands cut the distance which pedestrians must cross at one time in half.
- Curb extensions shorten the distance the pedestrians must cross, make pedestrians more visible to drivers, and prevent vehicles from parking at corners and obstructing sightlines.
- Mini-roundabouts improve safety by limiting the number of conflicting movements at an intersection. They also offer opportunities for landscaping.
- Curb radii reductions are used at intersections that are excessively wide. They prevent vehicles from speeding around corners.
- Chokers narrow two lane roadways down to one lane at a midblock location.

#### Vertical Treatments

- Vertical treatments should be used when visual and horizontal treatments are not an option.
- Speed humps provide vertical deflection.
- Speed tables are similar to speed humps but they have a flat top. Unlike speed humps they are effective in slowing larger vehicles such as SUV's.
- Raised intersections raise the intersection up to the height of the sidewalk. They are expensive because they require more material but they are effective, particularly in school areas.



Activity #1

Residents were asked to vote on what level of landscaping they would like to see incorporated into traffic calming devices in their neighborhood. “Gold” landscaping is highly aesthetic but residents or local organizations must agree to perform maintenance. “Silver” landscaping involves lesser planting and maintenance but can still make the traffic calming treatments attractive. “Bronze” landscaping does not include any type of planting or maintenance. It was understood that the vote was only meant to provide a general sense of the level of landscaping the neighborhood was willing to maintain. Landscaping may vary from location to location depending on the availability of sponsors willing to provide maintenance. Results were as follows:

RESULTS

“Gold” level landscaping	8
“Silver” level landscaping	7
“Bronze level landscaping	1

Residents requested that gold level landscaping be incorporated into treatments by the Cove Park entrance.

Activity #2

Participants were asked to identify the locations that should be top priorities for receiving treatment. Each participant was then allowed to vote for three of the locations identified by the group.

RESULTS

Cove Road (between Willowbrook Avenue and Weed Avenue)	15
Cove Road (between Elm Street and Willowbrook Avenue)	10
Weed Avenue	9
Willowbrook Avenue	4
Seaside Avenue	3
Island Heights Drive/Island Heights Circle	3
Soundview Avenue	2
Mathews Street	1
Givens Avenue	1
Uncas Road and Wacussee Lane	1
Dora Street	0
Waterbury Avenue	0

Activity #3

Attendees were given an opportunity to sign up to be part of a steering committee which will oversee the plan through the implementation phase. Those who were unable to commit time



to being full members of the committee were able to sign up to be assistants to the committee.

#### Activity #4

Participants were given an opportunity to review the preliminary neighborhood traffic calming plan in detail and write down their comments. Results are as follows:

#### RESULTS

- Do not implement inset parking on Cove Road between Dale Street and Willowbrook Avenue.
- Lengthen the proposed median at the intersection of Cove Road and Shippan Avenue so that it extends past the grocery store driveway.
- Traffic calming is needed on Givens Avenue and Palmer Avenue in between the intersections. Speeding is out of control.
- On Weed Avenue implement a painted shoulder rather than a sidewalk. (comment submitted by four participants)
- The proposed roundabout at the intersection of Middlebury Street and Cambridge Road should be large enough to slow down the traffic on Cambridge Road.
- The proposed roundabout at the intersection of Island Heights Drive and Island Heights Circle should be large enough to slow traffic.
- There is little to no parking on Island Heights Drive. No chicane is needed.
- Re-think the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Cove Road and Weed Avenue.
- The 20 mile per hour speed limit sign in front of 307 Weed Avenue should be more prominent.
- Paint the word "Slow" on the pavement on Weed Avenue.
- Reposition the booth in the Cove Park parking lot and add another lane in the parking lot to improve flow. This would take the back up off of the roads.
- The proposed curb extensions on Dean Street are a good idea.
- Additional treatments are needed along Weed Avenue and Cove Road in order to discourage drag racing.
- In order to prevent traffic from backing up at the Cove Park entrance, create separate one-way entrance and exit roads to and from the park.
- The traffic calming plan looks good.
- The proposed improvements on Uncas Road and Sachem Place are good ideas.
- Provide additional speed control measures on Soundview Avenue between Tupper Drive and Cove Road.
- The proposed raised intersection on Willowbrook Avenue should be at the Hale Street rather than Caldwell Street because there is a bus stop at the Hale Street intersection.
- Islands may not be needed on Uncas Road, Wacussee Lane, and Sachem Place because the volumes are low, but something should be done to narrow the intersections.



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It is believed that the above represents an accurate description of the major events that transpired at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

URBAN ENGINEERS, INC.

Najib O. Habesch  
Project Manager

cc: File