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STAMFORD NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

SUBJECT: BULLS HEAD NEIGHBORHOOD OPENING CHARRETTE

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2007 **TIME:** 6:30 PM

LOCATION: RIPPOWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL, 381 HIGH RIDGE ROAD

Mani Poola, City Traffic Engineer, welcomed the attendees and introduced the project. Najib Habesch, Project Manager, discussed the charrette process. This is the opening charrette and it will be the first of two charrettes. Tonight's charrette is aimed at gathering input from the community. Following the opening charrette the project team will begin an intensive process during which all of the identified issues are analyzed and potential solutions are selected. The end result, a neighborhood traffic calming plan, will be presented during the closing charrette. During the closing charrette the community will have the opportunity to critique and make additions to the plan before it is finalized. Residents are encouraged to submit additional comments to the project team via phone, e-mail, or the project website (www.stamfordtrafficcalming.com). Updates including meeting minutes, neighborhood traffic calming plans, and other information will be posted on the website.

National traffic calming expert 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-shooting 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

Participants assembled in small groups with the other representatives from their neighborhood. Each group identified specific traffic issues affecting their neighborhood and proposed possible solutions they would like to see used to address their concerns. Residents were also asked to sign their neighborhood maps. Results are summarized below:



BULLS HEAD GROUP #1

- Walkability is a general problem throughout the neighborhood
- Merging is difficult at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Cold Spring Road
- Speeding is an issue on Washington Boulevard
- Speeding is an issue on Bedford Street
- The intersection of Prospect Street, Hoyt Street, Strawberry Hill Avenue, Grove Street, and Hillandale Avenue is confusing and unfriendly for pedestrians. For certain turning movements visibility is a concern as well.
- Cut through traffic and speeding are concerns on Fourth Street
- The area east of Strawberry Hill Avenue, between Upland Road and Burdick Street, should be a neighborhood park. However, there is limited pedestrian access across Strawberry Hill Avenue and limited parking
- It is difficult for pedestrians to walk on Oaklawn Avenue. Better sidewalks are needed.
- It is difficult to merge at the intersection of Halpin Avenue and High Ridge Road.
- Halpin Avenue is very wide and speeding is a problem
- Bus stops are not accessible, particularly on High Ridge Road
- Oaklawn Avenue experiences high volumes and high speeds.
- The sharp turns at the intersection of Halpin Avenue and Oaklawn Avenue are a safety concern.
- Pedestrian access is very limited along High Ridge Road and long Ridge Road.
- Traffic never has to stop at the intersection of Bedford Street and Summer Street. This makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross the intersection.
- Terrace Avenue, McClean Avenue, and Cross Road are in need of traffic calming. Look at these streets as part of a system. If you only treat one of them the problems will move to the adjacent streets.

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