City of Madison Traffic Calming Program (TCP)
Traffic Calming Subcommittee (TCS)
Project charter, workplan, and timeline
Draft 10/08/2020, V1.2

Contents

Charter

- **Purpose**
  - Reduce speeding
  - Enhance bike/ped access
  - Increase bike/ped use (mode shift)
  - Equitable distribution of resources for above, including traffic calming, safety enhancements *(?what kind?)*, and enhancing bike/ped accommodations
  - Safe access to transit

- **Goals**
  - Outcomes focused
    - Is safer
    - Encourages walking, bicycling, transit
  - Equitable
    - All ages & abilities
    - All areas of the city
    - All kinds of roadways (local, collector, arterial)
  - Good public process/access
    - Accessible
    - Transparent
    - Inclusive
    - Issue reporting (how issues are reported)
    - How residents can advocate for selection
    - Outreach & engagement
  - Efficient
    - Good use of time for staff, commissioners, alders, residents, etc
    - Looks at area/corridor intervention rather than street by street
    - Cost-effective

- **Program elements**
  - Standardized, repeatable, and defensible process
  - Requests/getting issues into the program
  - Creative & flexible: all options on the table
  - Evaluating requests/determining solutions/interventions
  - Prioritizing recommended interventions
  - Public input
  - Decision making
  - Implementation
  - Evaluate effectiveness of individual interventions (include resident feedback/satisfaction, level of engagement)
  - Assessment/review/make changes of program
  - Funding
  - Mesh with existing programs (bike ped enhancements & traffic calming) *See Appendix A.*
  - Considers costs *See Appendix B.*
  - Considers funding *See Appendix C.*

- **Desired outcomes**
  - Best use of available funding and staff time
  - Keep objectivity, enhance flexibility; stick to process outcomes
  - Maintain progress of existing processes
  - Reasonable implementation timeline
  - Introduction needs to be seamless (to the extent possible) with existing processes and expectations; idea of piloting some new ideas such as zone/area
  - Citizen education on process and treatments, including innovative Tx
  - Focus on creating one mechanism to collect requests for traffic and ped/bike related issues and concerns from multiple sources (residents, alders, staff, neighborhood resource teams)
  - Consolidate funding (could still possible determine allocations for safety vs ped/bike enhancement)
  - Staff determines if the issue falls under safety or encourages/promotes walking, biking, transit
  - Staff Identify comprehensive solutions involving all possible interventions and consider logical boundaries - interventions encompassing multiple blocks or a corridor, not just one block/neighborhood
    - Must consider implications of expanding geographic area (increases cost and decreases number of areas that can be addressed)
  - Staff Prioritize projects based on cost/benefit (increase in safety or increase in ped/bike promotion), equity, available funds, and timing (consider future projects)
  - TC reviews recommendations and approves or modifies list or recommendations

- Use street reconstruction, resurfacing, path, and sidewalk projects as opportunities for traffic calming and ped/bike enhancements (skinny streets & other interventions as integrated components of the project)

- **Issues to consider or address**
  - Improving process transparency (create online portal)
  - Communication (how do we reach all stakeholders)
  - Street by street vs. neighborhood by neighborhood
  - Solutions are in boxes (speed humps vs stop signs etc)
  - Engineering and TE projects are mostly separate
  - Instigated by neighbor complaints almost exclusively
  - Role of enforcement?
  - Crossing guard program
  - Limitations (metro routes, fire routes, arterials)
  - Voting by neighbors comes before approval by TC
  - Who gets to vote?

(New content from this point forward)

Workplan

1. Determine project goals, desired outcomes
2. Identify key questions, issues, and program elements (e.g. process)
3. Assign report element tasks, determine documentation format
   a. Research other models (see *Traffic Calming Program & Other Related Program Examples* doc)
   b. Research existing programs (see Appendices D & E – to be added)
   c. Research key questions and issues
4. Present findings (in writing, review with team at TCS meeting)
5. Determine what works or might work, what doesn't
6. Make recommendations

Timeline

- **3/16/20 – 9/17/20**: develop project goals and desired outcomes; identify key questions and issues
- **9/30/20**: present initial to TC and TPPB
- **10/15/20**: review draft workplan
- **10/29/20**: finalize workplan, review draft documentation template(s)
- **11/12/20 – 12/3/20**: research and document assigned tasks, share drafts
- **12/3/20**: present findings & recommendations, discuss
- **12/17/20**: determine recommendations
- **12/17/20 – 2/5/21**: write & edit report
- **2/8/21**: submit report
- **2/15/21**: report deadline

Questions:

- Public review?
- TPPB & TC review of draft?
- Date to present report – joint mtg?

Report

TCS is to "produce a report that identifies opportunities to improve outcomes and processes related to: traffic calming, safety enhancements, and pedestrian and bicycle system enhancements in the City of Madison (including, but not limited to, the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and the Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancement Program), with a goal of equitable distribution of resources that improves safety and encourages increased walking and biking across the city."

Report contents

1. Project overview and exec summary
2. Questions to answer (see *Traffic Calming Questions/Ideas*)
3. Overview of current programs, identification of good things with current programs
4. Options / ideas considered
5. Recommendations
    a. Annual timeline
    b. Opportunities for public involvement
    c. How to ensure application of lens of equality
    d. Funding
    e. Metrics

APPENDIX A

Existing timelines for City of Madison's traffic calming program and ped/bike enhancement program

Ped Bike Enhancement Program Timeline

- Ongoing: Collect Concerns/Requests (after February 1 projects are considered for following year's program)
- January-February – Staff Review
- February-March – Score Proposed Projects
- April -- Announce Projects & Prepare Bid Documents, Begin Design Work, Etc

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Purposes

1. Respond to complaints
2. Select projects

Timeline

- April thru end of October--collect speed data on streets for which we received complaints/requests for traffic calming
- November/December—finalize rankings and project list
- January/February—take project list to Transportation Commission for approval
- February/March—prepare and mail resident surveys. Allow four weeks for residents to return surveys
- April/May—take final projects approved by residents to Board of Public Works and Common Council for final approval
- May—Put contract out to bid, select contractor
- End of May/early June—Preconstruction meeting with contractor
- June thru October—Contractor constructs projects (school areas completed by Labor Day).

This is an ideal timeline which allows for flexibility in case the projects are need to go back to TC, BPW, or CC multiple times. If a new program does not require a formal resident survey, that would also allow more flexibility as that process takes quite a bit of time.

Additionally, the contractor could start later in the year, but we would ideally stick to this schedule to make sure the contractor has enough time to get all school areas completed by the start of school. As an example, our 2020 contract was delayed later than we would have liked. The contractor did not start work until August 3 and would have not been able to complete all school-area projects by the start of school. Of course, it became a non-issue due to COVID and all virtual classes. Also, an earlier bid should theoretically mean more competition among contractors and a lower bid price.

APPENDIX B

Traffic Calming Cost Information

1. Average Costs for Example Improvements

- Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) $20,000
- Driver Speed Feedback Board $20,000
- Continental Crosswalk & Ped Signs - 2 Lane Street $5,000
- New Midblock Crosswalk - Simple $15,000
- Speed limit Reduction –Signage $1,500
- Green Marking for Bike Crossing $11,000 ($25/sqft)
- Pedestrian Island $8,000
- Curb Extension Varies depending on storm sewer inlets. $5,000 to $50,000
- Traffic Circle $8,000
- Speed Hump $7,000
- Bus Pad $2,000
- Sidewalk - Simple Street, Done with reconstruct $40 per linear foot
- Sidewalk - Simple Street, Infill $75 per linear foot
- Sidewalk - Complicated Grades/Stormwater, Infill $275 per linear foot
- Painted Bike Lane – One Block, Both Sides 600’ of two lines = $2,400 ($2/ft)

APPENDIX C

Funding

List of City of Madison sources for bicycle, pedestrian, transit improvements and maintenance. Unless noted, these sources cannot be used strictly to funding B/P/T improvements or maintenance.

Section 1: Overview of Existing Capital Budget Programs

Insert short overview/list

Section 2: Draft 2021 Capital Budget –Engineering and Traffic Engineering
(Links at bottom for additional information)

Engineering Capital Budget Programs

1. Neighborhood Traffic Management & Pedestrian Improvement Program - $350,000
    - Improvements for traffic and pedestrian safety on local streets to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety
2. Pedestrian Bicycle Enhancements - $243,000
    - Improvements to improve safety and convenience for people walking and biking and increase mode share of non-motorized transportation
3. Safe Routes to School - $100,000
    - Improvements in school area to increase safety and convenience for children walking and biking and decrease conflict between all modes
4. Bikeways Program - $650,000
    - Resurfacing paths
    - Bicycle-related improvements such as small gaps in network, path lighting, funding to start larger Capital path projects
5. Sidewalk Program - $3,200,000
    - Repair defective sidewalks and provide consistent maintenance to ensure safe conditions and reduce chance of injury. Each year 2-3 aldermanic districts are the focus for repairs.
    - Small stand-alone sidewalk infill projects where there are gaps in the sidewalk network
    - Concrete bus pad additions
    - Repair and replacement of tree grates
6. Safe Routes Grants - $100,000
    - Grant program for property owners to provide 50% of an owner's sidewalk assessment for new installations to assist residents. Includes projects that

install sidewalk adjacent to an existing street where the right of way was annexed prior to 1981 or where the properties were developed prior to be annexed to the City. The project must also be allocated in an area where the frontage is at least 70% single family or two-family dwelling units.

7. Bridge Repair - $250,000
    - Repair, replacement and painting of bridges to maintain a safe condition
8. Pavement Management - $26,381,000
    - Program for street resurfacing and repair, crack sealing and chip sealing on existing streets to extend the life of existing streets
9. Reconstruction Streets - $17,730,000
    - Program to replace deteriorated streets to maintain neighborhood roadways

Traffic Engineering Capital Budget Programs

1. Traffic Safety Infrastructure - $50,000
    - Equipment to test new traffic patterns before permanent installation and support emergency response
2. Vision Zero - $500,000
    - Countermeasures that reduce the severity and frequency of crashes to reach zero deaths or serious injuries by 2030
3. Street Light Installation - $610,000
    - Improvements to outdates street lighting systems
    - Refurbish/repaint old poles, fixtures and other equipment
    - Installation of new streetlights
4. Traffic Safety Infrastructure - $50,000
    - Traffic control devices used in the design for the local share of the State Highway Hazard Elimination Program, signs and traffic safety studies
5. Traffic Signal Installation - $825,000
    - Replacing and modernizing the traffic signal network

Full details at:

- Engineering – Bike and Pedestrian,
- Engineering – Major Streets and
- Traffic Engineering.

APPENDIX D

Ped Bike Enhancement Program Workflow

Requests are received from various sources and in multiple ways. Alders, residents, Report-a-Problem, neighborhood resource teams, staff, crossing guards, principals, and in-person events. One staff person maintains a spreadsheet with all the requests. Staff who get a request from someone respond directly to the person who made the request and then have the staff person add the request to the list we use for our annual review. Each requested improvement is evaluated by the staff team for the best solution and then is ranked using the criteria below.

PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA		
SAFETY	Speed	10 points
	Crashes	10 points
	Fatalities	20 points
OPERATIONS	Access/Demand	10 points
	Connectivity	10 points
	Transit Boarding	10 points
EQUITY	Neighborhood Resource Team Location	10 points
	Minority Percentage	10 points
	Housing Assistance	10 points

Source: https://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/PdBkEnhCurrentProj.cfm

APPENDIX E

Neighborhood Traffic Management (Traffic Calming) Program Workflow

The Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) is a tool for residents to work with City staff to make decisions about traffic management in their neighborhoods.

The NTMP provides a mechanism for City of Madison Alderpersons, neighborhood groups, and representatives to work with City staff to make decisions about traffic management in their neighborhoods. The NTMP was developed in response to community concerns about neighborhood traffic such as:

- Speeding
- Excessive traffic on local streets
- Driver courtesy
- Traffic safety around schools, such school zone speeding and drop-off/pick up

Neighborhood associations and groups, Alderpersons representing a neighborhood, and neighborhood businesses are eligible to participate. The first step is generally to collect support, in the form of signatures, from neighborhood residents. More information on this step can be found online (https://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/HowToApply.pdf). Requestors receive an email acknowledgement (see *sample email 1*).

Sample email 1

Traffic Engineering is looking to what can be done to help manage the speeding situation on *Street X*. We will work with the fire department and Metro Transit on whether speed humps work for their operations. We can also look into potentially other traffic calming measures such as traffic islands through our neighborhood traffic management program. It is a neighborhood driven process and involves neighborhood consensus. Below are the normal steps:

1. The neighbors collect signatures of at least half of the addresses along the relevant street blocks, and send the petition back to us.

2. City performs a traffic study after we receive the petition.

3. City ranks the street compared to all other streets in the city that are being considered for traffic calming.

4. Transportation Commission approves the ranking of traffic calming projects.

5. Top ranking streets will have residents along that street surveyed via mail (March 2021).

6. Streets that have at least a 60% approval of returned surveys will get traffic calming constructed in summer of 2021.

We will evaluate whether *Street X* can fit into the program. If so, we will waive the step 1 petition process due to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, and collect the traffic data.

You can find more detailed information about this program here:
https://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/programsTraffic.cfm

Characteristics of a successful NTMP project:

- Continuous involvement of the neighborhood residents
- Emergency services must not be seriously impaired
- Attractive devices and landscaping
- Minimal traffic diversion to other streets

The NTMP manual contains objectives, policies and procedures and can be found online (https://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/NTMP-Manual.pdf).

APPENDIX F

Traffic management techniques and traffic calming devices.

Traffic Management Techniques

1. Passive traffic control devices
    - Stop sign
    - Speed limit sign
    - School sign
    - Yield sign
    - Crosswalk

Limitations of passive traffic control devices

- Traffic signs rely on driver cooperation and adherence to laws related to the signs
- Police enforcement is typically needed to ensure effectiveness of signs

2. Active traffic control devices
    - Pedestrian or refuge island
    - Speed humps
    - Traffic circles
    - Full or partial road closures, such as diverters, semi diverters or cul-de-sacs
    - Chicanes

Advantages of active traffic control devices (aka traffic calming devices or active traffic management techniques)

- Police enforcement generally not required
- Removal of excess pavement width
- Eliminates straight appearance of roadway
- Shifts the vehicles' path, causing the driver to devote more attention to driving
- Can visually enhance the street with added greenery

Traffic Calming Devices

Traffic calming is the combination of physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for pedestrians, bikes, or other non-motorized street users.

1. Pedestrian refuge islands (traffic islands): horizontal speed control devices constructed on the centerline of a roadway. They may be raised, or painted, landscaped or concrete.

    Benefits:
    - Reduce width of road
    - Provide refuge for pedestrians
    - Separate vehicle lanes

• Reduce vehicle speeds
• May visually enhance street with landscaping

Parking restrictions required for traffic islands: In most cases, traffic islands will require prohibited parking at all times along the street curb where the island is located, plus about 40 feet.

2. Speed humps: rounded, raised area of pavement, placed at midblock to control vehicle speed. Speed humps are often placed in a series. They are typically 3-3.5 inches in height.

Speed Humps are generally installed on streets where:
• Speed limit is 25 mph or less
• There are fewer than 3000 vehicles per day
• There are two travel lanes that are less than or equal to 32 feet

Observed Speed Hump Impacts Speeds between humps reduced an average of 20-25% and traffic volume is reduced an average of 18%, depending on alternative routes available.

3. Traffic circles: circles of varying diameter formed by curbs. The curbs are partially or wholly mountable to enable large vehicles to turn around the circle. Traffic circles slow down traffic by forcing drivers to slow down to maneuver around them.

Question: Is it legal to go left around a traffic circle?

Answer: If there are no prohibiting signs, then both left and right turns are permissible.[1] If a sign is posted restricting left turns, only right turns around the traffic circle are allowed.

Observed Traffic Circle Impacts Midblock speeds reduced 10%, collisions at intersections reduced an average of 70%, overall collisions reduced 28%.

RESOURCES

Madison in Motion report:
https://www.cityofmadison.com/transportation/studies/madison-in-motion

Traffic calming
toolkit: https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7787736&GUID=634F9C08-9D12-47EA-95A3-A4973B1FCD3D

NACTO webinar "Fire Trucks and Vision Zero" (2018):
Recording is here: https://nacto.org/event/fire-trucks-and-vision-zero/
For those who prefer written materials, there's a Q&A document:
https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/5_24_18-Webinar-Questions.pdf

NATCO: Setting Safe Speed Limits on Urban Streets: https://nacto.org/safespeeds/

NTMP projects race and income data (8/6/20)

Traffic Calming Program & Other Related Program Examples (8/6/20)

Research Synthesis for the California Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force:
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5hg5m6sm