



CITY OF  
**BLOOMINGTON**  
PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

# **TRAFFIC CALMING & GREENWAYS PROGRAM**

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## BACKGROUND

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The City of Bloomington (the City) places a high value on livability. Livability, as a concept, has largely been the rationale for public policies which serve to benefit the community. One such policy, Chapter 15.26, added to the City's Code on June 2, 1999, established the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP). The NTSP aimed to increase a neighborhood's livability by enabling groups of organized residents to manage driving behaviors on neighborhood streets through the installation of speed cushions, chicanes, and other traffic calming devices.

The City of Bloomington Traffic Calming and Greenways Program (TCGP) seeks to replace the NTSP program and envisions a process for Bloomington which is:

- Based upon objective, measurable data
- Viewed through the lenses of connectivity and accessibility
- Aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan
- Managed through a consistent process
- Openly shared and transparent to the community

## RATIONALE

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The rationale for replacing the NTSP policy is based on the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan (2018) and the Bloomington Transportation Plan (2019):

- Continue to integrate all modes into the transportation network while prioritizing bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and other non-automotive modes to make our network equally accessible, safe, and efficient for all users (*Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.4*)
- Protect neighborhood streets that support residential character and provide a range of local transportation options (*Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.5*)
  - Implement traffic calming measures where safety concerns exist to manage motor vehicle traffic on residential streets (*Comprehensive Plan, Policy 6.5.1*)
  - Balance vehicular circulation needs with the goal of creating walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods (*Comprehensive Plan, Policy 6.5.2*)
  - Continue to improve connectivity between existing neighborhoods, existing and proposed trails, and destinations such as commercial areas and schools (*Comprehensive Plan, Policy 6.5.3*)
- Ensure an appropriate process to receive traffic calming requests from residents and include steps for the installation of temporary, proactive traffic calming measures as well as the installation of longer-term measures as a result of a reactive process in response to local concerns (*Transportation Plan, p. 51*)
- Encourage resident involvement (*Transportation Plan, p. 64*)

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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The following eight guiding principles inform the TCGP:

1. Evaluation and prioritization of TCGP installations should be based upon objective, pre-established criteria; be in alignment with the City of Bloomington adopted plans and goals; and be reviewed by a designated City Commission who oversee traffic calming, and/or long range transportation planning.
2. Traffic Calming and Greenways Program projects shall enhance pedestrian, bicyclist, and other **micromobility** mode user's access through the neighborhood and preference shall be given to projects that enhance access to transit as well.
3. Traffic calming devices should be planned and designed in keeping with planning and engineering best practices.
4. Reasonable emergency and service vehicle access and circulation should be preserved.
5. City staff shall direct the installation of traffic calming measures in compliance with this policy and as adopted into Bloomington Municipal Code.
6. The TCGP is mainly intended for: **Shared Street**, **Neighborhood Residential Street**, and **Neighborhood Connector Street** typologies and, on occasion, may include traffic calming elements as part of a larger infrastructure project.
7. Some motorists may choose to reroute from one neighborhood street to another as a result of an TCGP project. In some cases, this rerouting may require updates to a project, but the goals of mode shift and improved safety for all road users should generally supersede minor shifts in rerouting. Minor increases in traffic volumes on adjacent streets are anticipated and acceptable levels should be defined on a project-by-project basis.
8. Processes shall provide for reasonable but not onerous resident participation in plan development and evaluation.

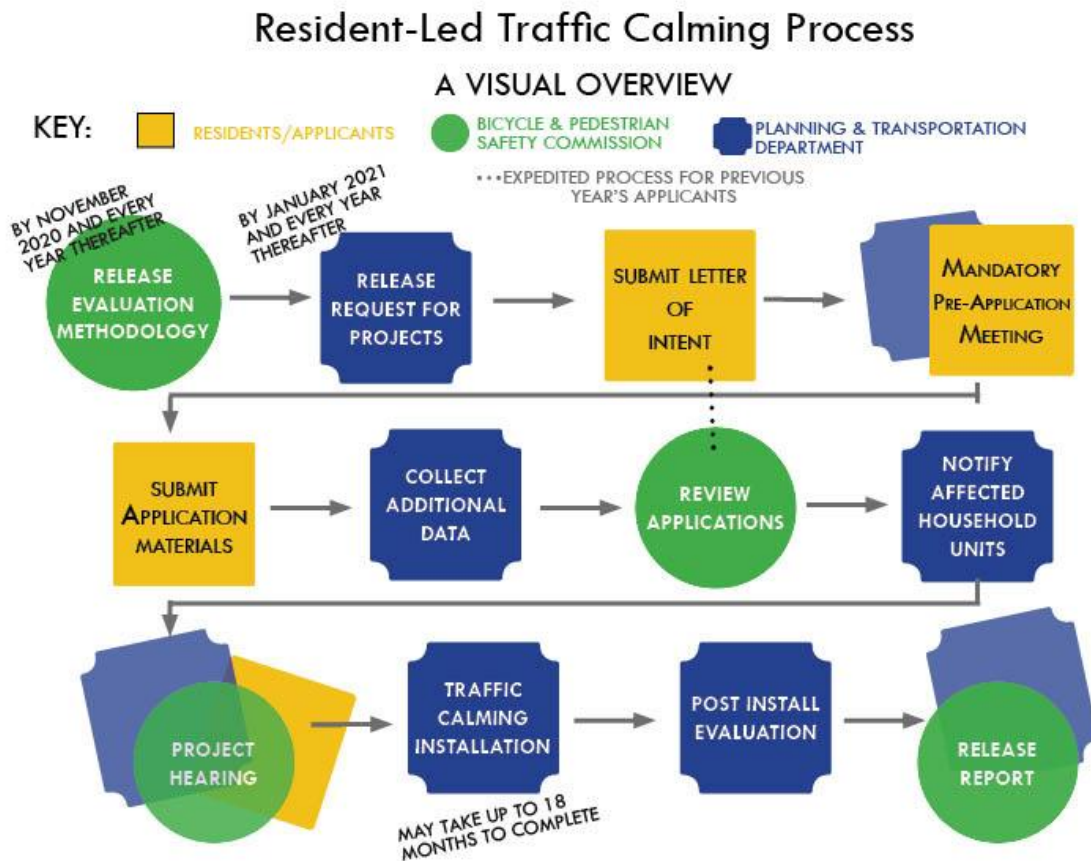
# RESIDENT-LED TRAFFIC CALMING PROCESS

The TCGP provides a mechanism for residents to work with the City to manage traffic in their neighborhoods. The TCGP is intended to provide a simple process for residents to address traffic and speeding concerns on neighborhood streets. The TCGP processes also provide a consistent framework to ensure efficient use of resident and City staff time.

This section describes in detail the steps involved in participating in the Resident-led Traffic Calming process including the City’s request for projects, the application requirements, benchmark data collection, the review and prioritization of high-ranking projects, the installation of traffic calming devices, and an evaluation of the project’s success. The Resident-Led Traffic Calming Process is illustrated below in Figure 1 and in the [Appendix](#).

Traffic Calming devices primarily considered for this program include **speed cushions** and **speed humps**, in some contexts other devices may also be considered.

Figure 1: Visual Overview of the: Resident-led Traffic Calming Process



## **BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMISSION RELEASES EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

The Evaluation Methodology defines the objective criteria used to review project requests. The evaluation methodology is reviewed each year before the start of a new process cycle. By November 30, 2020 and by November 30 of each year thereafter, the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission (BPSC) shall submit revisions of the TCGP Evaluation Methodology to the Planning and Transportation Department as well as a report that includes the following:

- Any changes to the application evaluation methodology from the previous year;
- A status report on the previous years' designed and installed projects; and
- Projects which applied for funding but did not receive funding based on the priority ranking during the previous year's cycle.

## **CITY RELEASES REQUEST FOR PROJECTS**

In January 2021 and every year in January thereafter, the City Planning Department will release a Request for Projects (RFP) for participation in the Traffic Calming and Greenways Program. Each RFP issued shall be dependent upon funding availability, and the amount of available funding may be made known to prospective applicants. Requests for participation will be made through the BPSC and City staff to residents upon the opening of the RFP process.

## **STEP 1: RESIDENTS SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT**

Residents who wish to engage in the TCGP must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Planning Department before the end of the posted deadline. Prospective applicants are responsible for checking the TCGP guidelines for additional formatting and submission requirements. The LOI from the interested parties shall include but may not be limited to:

- Contact information for a minimum of two project co-organizers;
- Project organizers must represent two (2) separate dwelling units within the proposed area to be considered.
  - Individuals who reside in the same dwelling shall not be permitted to serve as project co-organizers without the collaboration of a neighbor or resident of a differing dwelling unit.
  - Individuals who reside in different dwelling units of a larger multi-family complex shall be permitted to serve as project co-organizers.
- A general description of the concern;
- A map of the proposed area to be considered;
- Acknowledgement of program policies; and
- Any supplemental information requested by staff.

Previous Applicants: Project co-organizers who have submitted an application for the previous one (1) year program cycle and did not receive funding may reapply with an updated LOI and any supplemental materials requested by City Staff.

Staff Action: When the submission window has closed, City staff shall review each of the LOIs. City staff will notify applicants who have met the requirements to advance to the application process of the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process. In the event that an application does not meet the minimum

requirements to apply, City staff may notify the project co-organizers and allow up to 4 additional business days to resubmit with recommended changes dependent upon the quantity and extent of changes needed. LOIs which do not meet the minimum requirements will not progress beyond Step 2 of the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process and shall be notified by City staff.

## **STEP 2: PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS WITH CITY STAFF AND PROJECT ORGANIZERS**

City staff shall schedule a mandatory meeting with each group of project co-organizers who have advanced to Step 2 of the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process. At the mandatory pre-application meeting staff shall:

- Discuss the application requirements, processes, and deadlines;
- Disseminate preliminary information required in the application;
- Provide a link to the application materials; and
- Answer questions from the project organizers.

## **STEP 3: RESIDENTS SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Project co-organizers will have approximately six to eight weeks to complete and submit their applications. Application materials shall include:

- Three (3) Letters of Support from stakeholders.
  - Must include at least one (1) City Council Representative
  - May include an organization or professional which serves the residents living within the identified area (i.e., neighborhood association, school, neighborhood resource specialist, faith based organization, and/or a non-profit which serves households located within the specified area but may not necessarily be located within the specified zone)
  - Only three letters will be reviewed. Additional letters will not be reviewed with the project application.
- Twenty-four (24) or 30% (whichever is the lesser) signatures from **Affected Housing Units** impacted by the traffic calming installations proposed.
  - Staff shall provide a template document for collecting signatures which must be used for collecting signatures. No other forms will be accepted.
  - Electronic signatures may be used for this purpose if deemed appropriate and with written approval of the City Planning Department Director.
- A finalized map of the proposed project area.
- Additional relevant data requested by City staff

City staff shall send a confirmation email once an application has been received. In the event that an application requires clarification or has proposed a zone which is incompatible with the program, City staff may notify the project organizers and allow up to an additional 4 business days to resubmit with recommended changes dependent upon the quantity and extent of changes needed. Incomplete applications which are submitted with insufficient supporting documents/ materials will not progress beyond Step 3 of the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process and shall be notified by City staff.

#### **STEP 4: CITY STAFF PREPARE RELEVANT DATA**

City staff shall collect preliminary information about current traffic conditions. Relevant data may include crash history, speed counts and volume data, and other relevant facts. City staff shall notify the affected safety and emergency services of the initiative to include but not be limited to: the Bloomington Police Department, Bloomington Fire Department, local ambulance services, and Bloomington Transit.

City staff may collect and summarize preliminary information about existing plans for development, census data, and pedestrian and bicycle network infrastructure near the proposed project.

#### **STEP 5: BPSC REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS**

Upon the receipt of completed applications, the BPSC will review the materials submitted and the preliminary data collected by City staff. The BPSC will validate successful applications, and rank the projects which score highest as determined by the evaluation methodology. All applications will be evaluated using the same criteria.

The evaluation criteria for the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process must account for two main areas of emphasis:

1. Prevalence of vulnerable users (e.g., children, persons with disabilities, older adults, economically disadvantaged households) and community centers.
2. Incidence of crashes and behaviors which are the causal factors for increased injury to vulnerable users (crashes, speeding, volume).

#### **STEP 6: NOTIFICATIONS SENT TO AFFECTED HOUSING UNITS IN HIGH RANKING AREAS**

Notifications will be sent via post to **Affected Housing Units** and electronically to **Network Users** in the areas surrounding projects that are likely to be funded based upon the number of applications and the designated resources for traffic calming.

Information presented in the notification shall include:

- Information related to the location and placement of the proposed traffic calming installations;
- The objectives for the traffic calming;
- Notification of all scheduled meetings associated with the project and prioritization process; and Contact information and project website to direct feedback, ask questions, or present concerns.

#### **STEP 7: PROJECT PRIORITIZATION HEARING**

The BPSC shall host a hearing in which **Affected Housing Units**, **Network Users**, and members of the public may voice their questions, concerns, support, or critique of the Traffic Calming project. Based upon information gleaned at the prioritization hearing, the BPSC may vote to advance fundable projects to the design/ installation phase for those which rank highest unless extenuating circumstances become known which calls into question a project's merit or evidence that an application was not put forth in good faith with the program policies.



## **STEP 8: INSTALLATION**

City staff will proceed with final design and installation. Planning, design, and construction may take up to 18 months depending on the scope of the project. Installations will typically be planned with permanent materials; however, using temporary materials may be appropriate to evaluate design options or to accelerate project timelines.

## **STEP 9A: POST-INSTALLATION EVALUATION** *(TAKES PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH STEP 9B)*

Up to 18 months after the construction of the Traffic Calming project, the City may conduct a follow-up evaluation. After the installation has been completed, City of Bloomington Planning Department Staff will work to gather data which may include traffic counts, speed studies, and crash history. In some instances, evaluations of adjacent and parallel streets will also be included.

## **STEP 9B: MAINTENANCE AND MINOR ALTERATIONS** *(TAKES PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH STEP 9A)*

The City of Bloomington Planning Department is responsible for the construction and the minor alteration of any traffic calming device implemented as part of the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process. Alterations may occur either during the design of the project or after the construction is complete. Changes to signs, markings, or location of traffic calming devices may be considered minor alterations. Other changes which could have a more significant impact on a street's operations should follow the Staff-led Traffic Calming/Neighborhood Greenways Process or the Resident-led Traffic Calming Process in subsequent funding cycles.

The Department of Public Works will be responsible for maintenance of completed Traffic Calming installations.

## **OTHER PROCESSES A: INCREASED TRAFFIC CALMING AND MODIFICATIONS**

If residents desire to have their traffic calming modified to include major alterations, a request in writing must be made to City Planning and Transportation staff. Requests for traffic calming tools beyond those typically used for Resident-led projects shall require staff approval in writing. Projects that are able to be supported and prioritized for increased traffic calming will follow the Staff-led Traffic Calming/Neighborhood Greenways Process beginning at [Step Six](#). In some cases, the City may choose to start at an earlier step in the process.

Residents may request to make major modifications to existing traffic-calming on public streets by applying to the Resident-led Traffic-Calming Process. To request major modifications to existing traffic calming, residents shall follow the Resident-Led Process, starting at [Step 1](#) but may not do so within 7 years of the date which the traffic calming installation was approved.

## **OTHER PROCESSES B: REMOVAL PROCESS**

If residents of a neighborhood request to have their traffic calming installations removed, an application shall be submitted with no less than sixty-six (66) percent of the **Affected Housing Units** in support of the removal. Removal of Traffic calming must be based upon the same boundaries as the original project request and may not be divided into smaller portions thereof. Applications for removal and required

signatures shall not be submitted within 7 years of the date which the traffic calming installation was approved. City staff shall provide a template document for collecting signatures which **must** be used for collecting signatures required for traffic calming removal. No other forms will be accepted for this purpose. The City may provide an electronic signature option if deemed appropriate and with written approval of the City Planning Department Director.

City Planning Department staff shall validate completed applications and present it to the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission for approval. Based upon the application materials provided, traffic speed and volume data, and public comment, BPSC shall vote to remove the traffic calming installations (or any portion thereof) unless sixty-six (66%) percent majority of BPSC appointed members vote to deny the removal of the traffic calming installations.

In some extenuating circumstances, the City Engineer may remove a traffic calming installation if they find it poses increased and unnecessary risk to public. In the event of such circumstances, the Engineer must submit a report within 180 days of the removal of a traffic calming device to both the BPSC and City Council explaining the rationale which the removal was deemed necessary.

# STAFF-LED TRAFFIC CALMING/ NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAY PROCESS:

The Staff-led Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenway Process provides a framework for Planning and Engineering Department staff to identify and implement traffic calming projects, improve safety and/or support pedestrian, bicyclist, or transit initiatives.

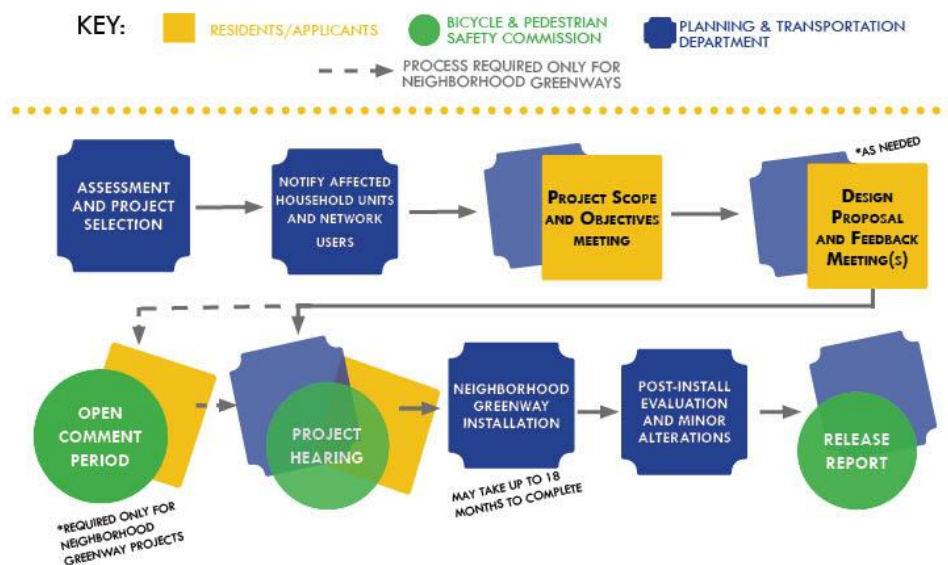
**Traffic Calming**, or devices used for reducing speeds on residential streets are defined by state code and may include: speed bumps, curb extensions, chicanes, and/or diagonal diverters. While the state provides a definition for specific traffic-calming devices which may be used, there are other street design elements (i.e., adding on-street parking, the design of on-street parking, narrowing lanes) which may result in slowing motorized vehicle traffic. These design elements alone do not trigger the Staff-Led Traffic Calming process. However, the design strategies may be included in a traffic-calming project.

A **Neighborhood Greenway** is a street that serves as a shared, slow street with the intention of prioritizing bicycling and improving walking. The Bloomington Transportation Plan identifies certain streets as Neighborhood Greenways. Traffic Calming installations, signs, and pavement markings are often used to create the basic elements of a Neighborhood Greenway-- but are, in and of themselves not Greenways for the purposes of the program until they are identified within the Transportation Plan. To be considered for as a Neighborhood Greenway, a street must be identified as a Neighborhood Greenway in the Bicycle Facilities Network in the Bloomington Transportation Plan.

This section describes in detail the steps involved in the Staff-led Traffic Calming/Neighborhood Greenways Process including the City’s notification to the public, the process for gaining feedback from **Affected Housing Units**, and the installation and evaluation for each Neighborhood Greenway project. The Staff-led Neighborhood Greenway Process is illustrated below in Figure 2 and in [the Appendix](#).

## Staff-Led Neighborhood Traffic Calming/Greenway Process

### A VISUAL OVERVIEW



### **STEP 1: NOTICE MAILING**

City staff shall notify **Affected Housing Units** by a postal mailing and electronically to **Network Users** in advance of any work sessions or meetings which discuss the installation of the Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenway project.

The intent of the notification is to alert residents and stakeholders of the project and provide details of upcoming meetings. Other notifications, such as postings on social media or signs posted in the vicinity of the proposed project, are additional measures which may be used to increase engagement with residents.

### **STEP 2: FIRST MEETING- PROJECT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES MEETING**

City Planning and Transportation Department Staff shall host a meeting about the proposed project. Staff will seek input from residents, stakeholders, and **Network Users**. Staff will present information including but not limited to the following:

- What is Traffic Calming? What is a Neighborhood Greenway?
- What are the boundaries of this phase of the project?
- How do the Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenways support the City's Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan goals for multimodal connectivity?
- What are the funding limitations for this project or phase?

### **STEP 3: SECOND MEETING- FEEDBACK ON PRELIMINARY DESIGN**

City staff will host a second meeting to share the preliminary design and to take input from residents and users.

### **STEP 4: THIRD MEETING (OPTIONAL) DESIGN/BUILD OUT OPTION WORK MEETING**

A third meeting is optional, based on feedback of the preliminary design.

### **STEP 5: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD (NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAY PROJECTS ONLY)**

Staff-led Neighborhood Greenway plans shall be made available for comment by **Affected Housing Units, Network Users**, and other stakeholders. Comments shall be made on the project website, email, phone, or post mail. Comments housed in social media platforms and listservs will not be considered in the BPSC Discussion/ Review.

The open comment period is expected to last 4 weeks, unless extenuating circumstances require a longer timeframe. When City staff feel confident that a design best suited to the project and location has been achieved, the proposed Staff- Led Neighborhood Greenway installation will proceed forward to the BPSC Discussion and Review Phase.

## **STEP 6: BPSC DISCUSSION/REVIEW**

City staff shall present the project, objectives, baseline data, notes from public meetings, and design concepts to the BPSC for review. By default, projects will proceed, unless a seventy-five percent (75%) of the BPSC appointed members vote to send the project back to the City staff for further refinement.

## **STEP 7: INSTALLATION**

City of Bloomington Planning Department shall install the Traffic Calming or Neighborhood Greenways. The installation is intended to be constructed with permanent materials; however, in some cases, using temporary materials may be appropriate in order to evaluate design techniques or to accelerate project timelines.

## **STEP 8A: EVALUATION** *(HAPPENS CONCURRENTLY WITH STEP 8B)*

Within eighteen months after the construction of a Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenway project is complete, the City may conduct a follow-up evaluation. This evaluation may include traffic counts, speed studies, and crash history. In some instances, evaluations of adjacent and parallel streets will also be beneficial.

## **STEP 8B: MAINTENANCE AND ALTERATIONS** *(HAPPENS CONCURRENTLY WITH STEP 8A)*

The City of Bloomington Planning Department is responsible for the construction and the minor alterations of any traffic calming device implemented as part of the program. These alterations may occur either during the design of the project or after the construction is complete. Changes to signs, markings, or location of traffic calming devices may be considered **minor alterations**.

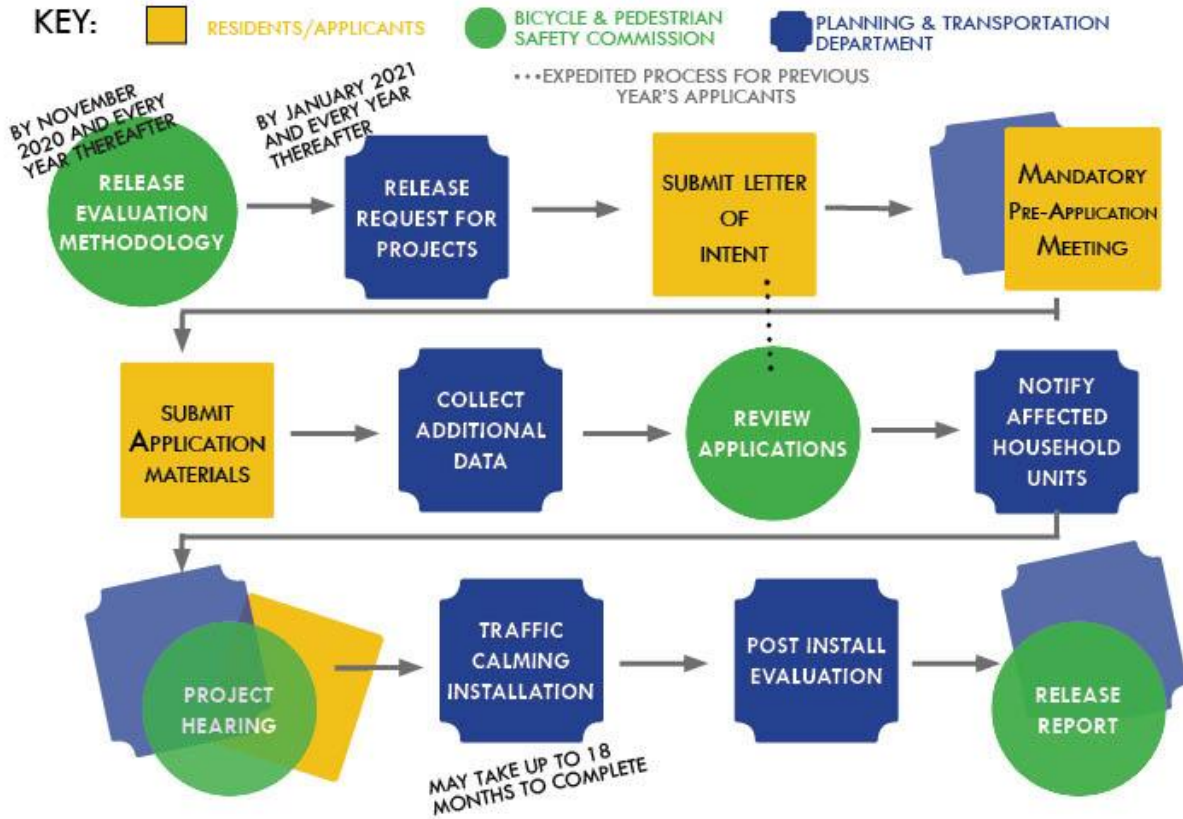
City Staff may request to make **major modifications** to existing traffic calming installations on public streets by following the Staff-led Traffic Calming and Neighborhood Greenways Process, starting at [Step 6](#). In some cases, the City may choose to start at an earlier step in the process.

The Department of Public Works will be responsible for maintenance of completed Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenway installations.

# APPENDIX: VISUAL OVERVIEW OF RESIDENT-LED AND STAFF-LED PROCESSES

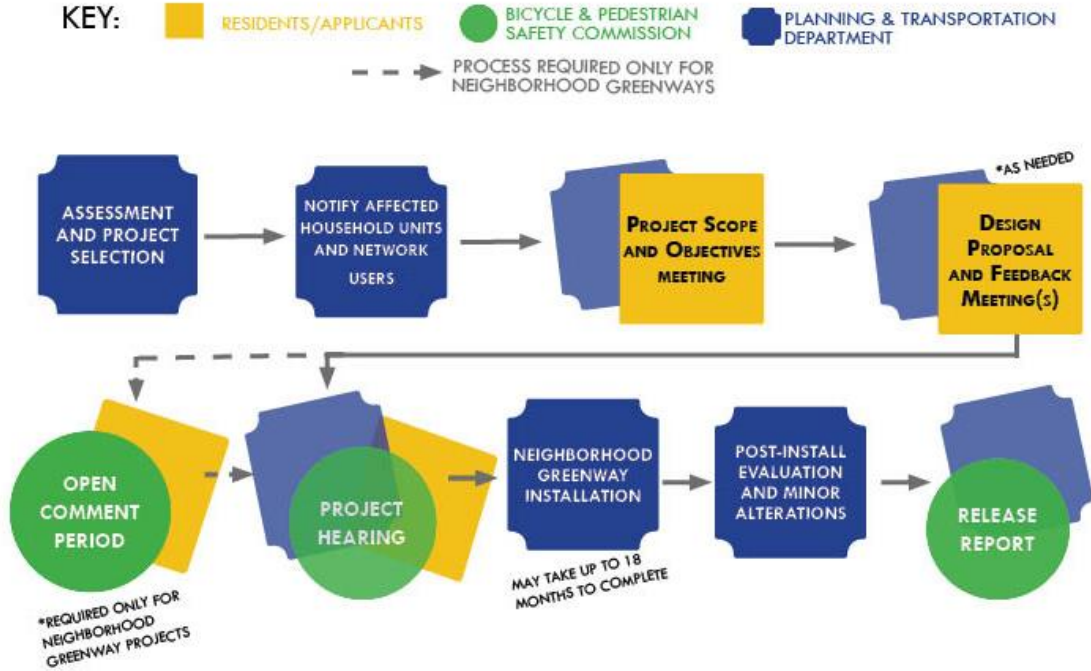
## Resident-Led Traffic Calming Process

### A VISUAL OVERVIEW



# Staff-Led Neighborhood Traffic Calming/Greenway Process

## A VISUAL OVERVIEW



## APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS

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**Affected Housing Units:** residents and property owners of record located within two lots not to exceed 300 feet of streets affected by the proposed traffic calming installation.

**Major alterations:** A change other than a minor alteration.

**Micromobility:** a category of modes of transport that are provided by very light vehicles such as scooters, electric scooters, electric skateboards.

**Minor alterations:** a change which has no appreciable effect on the surface area of the street dedicated to the travel for motor vehicles. Changes to signs, markings, parking policies or location of traffic calming devices may be considered minor alterations. All other changes are considered 'major alterations.'

**Neighborhood Connector Street:** streets which provide connections between the neighborhood residential and general urban or suburban connector streets. They collect traffic from residential neighborhoods and distribute it to the broader street network. Most of the land uses surrounding neighborhood connectors are generally low/medium-density residential with commercial nodes as it connects to the larger street network.

**Neighborhood Residential Street:** streets that provide access to single and multifamily homes and are not intended to be used for regional or cross-town motor vehicle commuting. Neighborhood residential streets have slow speeds and low vehicular volumes with general priority given to pedestrians.

**Neighborhood Greenway:** a low-speed, low-volume shared roadway that creates a high-comfort walking and bicycling environment. Neighborhood Greenways are identified in the Bloomington Transportation Plan.

**Network Users:** People who utilize a street for their primary means of access to pedestrian, bicycle, or transit networks.

**Shared Streets:** Streets designed for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists to operate in a "shared" space; shared streets utilize design elements such as pavement treatments, planters, roadway widths, parking spaces, and other elements to direct traffic flow and to encourage cooperation among travel modes in typically flush or curbless environments.

**Speed Cushions:** speed humps that include wheel cutouts to allow large vehicles, cyclists, scooters and strollers to pass unaffected, while reducing passenger car speeds.

**Speed Humps:** a ridge set in a road surface, typically at intervals, to control the speed of vehicles.

**Traffic Calming:** methods described within the state code which are used to slow cars on residential streets. Traffic Calming devices may include curb extensions, chicanes, and/or diagonal diverters.