

Date: September 14, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202201781
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager
Subject: SOUTH FAIRMONT TRAFFIC CALMING

Reference Document #202201291

The Council at its session on June 8, 2022 referred the following item for review and report.

MOTION, dated 5/31/2022, submitted by Councilmember Cramerding, WE MOVE that the Administration study and provide a report on traffic calming initiatives along Queen City Avenue, Westwood Avenue, Sunset Avenue, and Rapid Run Pike. This should include short-term measures and long-term measures. It should also include option for conventional two-way traffic on Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue.

The following report by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) details the short- and long-term traffic calming initiatives on Queen City Avenue, Westwood Avenue, Sunset Avenue and Rapid Run Pike.

BACKGROUND

Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue are one-way streets that work in unison as part of the City's roadway network and each roadway moves approximately 23,000 vehicles per day.

Sunset Avenue and Rapid Run Pike connect Queen City Avenue to Glenway Avenue and moves approximately 13,000 vehicles per day.

COMPLETED AND UPCOMING TRAFFIC CALMING INITIATIVES

On Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue

DOTE has completed traffic calming improvements over the past year. Improvements include pavement markings to delineate the 24-hr parking lane which provide narrower travel lanes even when vehicles are not parked on the streets; plastic paddle (aka Qwick Kurb) bump-outs to provide vertical elements to help slow traffic; and in locations where curb lanes were greater than 10 feet wide, an edge line was installed to narrow the lanes and slow traffic.

Later this year, the Pedestrian Safety Program will install an extra-long concrete curb extension on Westwood Avenue at Van Hart Street.

For FY23 Pedestrian Safety funding, South Fairmount submitted the following for consideration: “traffic calming for Queen City Ave, and Westwood in the area between Van Hart and Quebec.” DOTE expects to receive 90+ requests from community councils citywide for FY23 Ped Safety funding. DOTE will score each request, rank them all, and fund the highest scoring locations first. Requests will be scored on speed data, proximity to schools/parks, % of zero-car households, and # of pedestrian crashes in the last 3 years.

Lastly, DOTE is currently evaluating the removal of the left curb lane peak hour parking restriction on Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue between Harrison Avenue and Quebec Avenue.

On Sunset Avenue/Rapid Run Pike

Sunset Avenue/Rapid Run Pike are in West Price Hill. The West Price Hill community council has not yet submitted their FY23 requests, however if they submit Sunset Avenue and/or Rapid Run Pike as their top two priorities then DOTE will collect speed data, score, and rank these streets with all the other community council submissions.

Long term, DOTE is working on the Lick Run to Dunham Trail connection. This project will reduce the number of travel lanes and the lane width on Sunset Avenue between Queen City Avenue and Rapid Run Pike. Additionally, the Sunset/Gilsey/Guerley intersection, which is very large and confusing, will be redesigned with the trail project.

TWO WAY TRAFFIC ON QUEEN CITY AND WESTWOOD

As stated above, the traffic volumes on Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue are approximately 23,000 vehicles per day. These volumes are too high to convert the existing Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue to two-way traffic (one-lane in each direction with full time parking in the curb lane). The consequences would be near gridlock traffic conditions and the inability to turn left into or out of the side streets.

SUMMARY

DOTe completed many traffic calming improvements on Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue over the past 12 months along with additional improvements planned. We will continue to work with the community councils on reviewing their pedestrian safety priorities.

Finally, DOTE does not recommend converting Queen City Avenue and Westwood Avenue to two-way traffic due to the high traffic volumes.

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering