

Traffic Calming Requires Teamwork

By Steve Angelides

Mayor Mike Metcalf has drafted a new traffic calming plan that would give “community action teams” a leading role in determining what types of traffic calming measures could be undertaken in various areas of Moraga.

The traffic calming concept originated in Europe in the 1960’s and is gaining widespread acceptance. It can include a variety of measures to control the speed and volume of local traffic, including education, enforcement, crosswalks, signs and signals, speed bumps, and the narrowing and redesign of roads.

Under Metcalf’s plan the traffic calming process would be initiated by five residents filing a request with the Town Police Department. The next step would be an area meeting including residents, property owners, and Town Staff, at which those attending would decide whether they wanted to form a community action team to pursue traffic

calming measures in the area.

The team would have the primary responsibility for studying the problem and proposing solutions. The Town could loan the team radar devices and other equipment to use in its study.

Depending on the level and expense of measures the team decided to seek, approvals could be required by vote of the area residents and property owners, the Town Staff, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and the Town Council. Funding could be provided by the residents and property owners themselves, the Town, and grants, depending on the scope and impact of the measures approved.

Metcalf’s new plan would replace a little-used plan adopted in 2000. The new plan is 46 pages long and borrows from the plans of the cities of Lafayette and Napa.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reviewed the plan twice and made a few

changes. At its meeting last month the Committee changed the term “neighborhood action team” to “community action team” to emphasize that the plan will apply to both residential and commercial areas.

Committee members were pleased with the extensive work done by the Mayor. Fernwood Drive resident J.D. O’Connor, one of two residents on the Committee, was particularly pleased that the Town could loan equipment to community action teams. “I have to say that I was staggered that there’s been this change—that a neighborhood could be given the tools that would mean something to the police,” O’Connor said.

Metcalf will revise the plan to incorporate the recent changes and present it to the Committee for further review. The Committee’s next scheduled meeting is September 5.



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