

Traffic Calming and Sidewalks: Setting Priorities

Recommendations from the Complete Safe Streets Committee

Consideration of Requests for Sidewalks or Traffic Calming: Recap of earlier advice

1. Make it easier and make it the same for residents to trigger a need assessment
 - Simplify public request process: use simplified form, request to Council member enough
 - Allow city staff or Council member (for self of constituent) to initiate an assessment
 - Petitions can be used to appeal a denial
2. Make the process for deciding transparent, evidence based and equitable (making up for any past equity deficiencies with po-active assessment)
 - Assess requests promptly and let requesters know you are doing so
 - Spell out the criteria you will use
 - Use a transparent rating system anyone can see before making their requests
 - Consult with police (may need anecdotal data since much fender bender data is not recorded) and Public Works

3. Proactively engage the community using multiple outreach measures

- In person and zoom meetings – different times of day/evening
- Post info at the affected site
- Use social media, email, local news outlets and list serves
- Use multiple languages as appropriate
- Work with Council members

4. Make budgeting and priority-setting process transparent

- Make annual budget for these activities public and easily understandable
- Make priority-setting standards transparent and widely available

Getting started: What is needed and what will it cost?

Step one: update your inventory

- Revise map for sidewalks
- Create map for traffic calming
- Overlay requests
- Overlay staff expert advice
- Put this info on the City website, and proactively share it

Step two: assess budget and needs

- Only engage in complex priority-setting process if demand outstrips budget
- However, do continue to say no to requests that do not meet transparent criteria

Council request to CSSC: Assist with criteria for prioritizing projects when requests outpace budget

Our recommendations:

- Establish and publicize the criteria you will use
- Weight the criteria to highlight equity and safety in order to score them
- Proactively consider high impact area near Purple Line

Suggested criteria (Toole Design report on sidewalks was starting point)

- Safety
- School access
- Transit access
- Key destinations
- Public input
- Equity
- Cost