

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2022-XX

RESOLUTION ON PEDESTRIAN AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

- WHEREAS, the City Council identified a goal of improving transportation planning and outreach to create a safer and more racially equitable community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle occupants, in Resolution 2021-6; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 2021-6 also outlined strategies of exploring adopting a Vision Zero initiative, examining potential components such as education/outreach, policy, changes, and infrastructure improvements, and continuing to revise processes for traffic calming and sidewalk requests; and
- WHEREAS, other goals outlined in Resolution 2021-6, such as climate change mitigation, and improve city policies and processes to enhance resident interaction with the city, support improved transportation planning and outreach; and
- WHEREAS, the City has identified inequities in the existing traffic calming and sidewalk request policies; and
- WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Complete Safe Streets Committee developed a set of recommendations to improve decision-making and prioritization related to pedestrian safety initiatives in the City of Takoma Park and presented those recommendations to the City Council in January 2021; and
- WHEREAS, those recommendations include, among other things: utilizing data-driven and evidence-based criteria as the basis for decisions; balancing the weight of “public input” by giving more weight to other criteria, including racial equity; proactively considering traffic data; considering a variety of traffic-calming measures as options in addition to speed humps; planning more holistically for traffic calming and pedestrian safety across larger geographic areas; utilizing a variety of methods for resident outreach and education; and creating criteria for prioritizing locations for new sidewalk installation; and
- WHEREAS, Montgomery County is undertaking a number of initiatives to improve pedestrian safety, including the Action Plan for Vision Zero, the Pedestrian Master Plan, and the Bicycle Master Plan, that may inform and help support work on these issues in Takoma Park; and
- WHEREAS, State law now allows municipalities in Montgomery County to decrease speed limits down to 15 MPH after performing an investigation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held work sessions on development of a Public Space Management Plan that is anticipated to be adopted in the near future and will outline key recommendations related to use of public space and evaluation criteria that may further inform changes to pedestrian and transformation safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park directs City staff to develop and present to the City Council revised traffic calming and sidewalk request policies and prioritization procedures to the City Council for consideration that:

- Prioritize safety and equity in decision-making processes and planning;
- Integrate and utilize the criteria outlined in the Public Space Management Plan;
- Allow for holistic approaches considering larger geographic areas and integration of initiatives such as sustainability efforts, art initiatives, and other projects;
- Utilize data-driven criteria for evaluating and prioritizing sidewalk and traffic calming installations and other traffic calming approaches such as reduced speed limits;
- Allow for multiple avenues for initiating consideration of and evaluating prioritization of traffic calming and sidewalk installation, including resident and Councilmember requests as well as City staff-driven planning initiatives; and
- Progress toward developing a more comprehensive approach toward transportation and public space planning that prioritizes pedestrian and non-vehicle safety.

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2022.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk