February 28, 2019

RE: Streets That Have Qualified for Traffic Calming Assistance (2019 Update)

Anchorage Community Councils:

The Traffic Department is pleased to provide the Community Councils with an updated list of the streets that have qualified for traffic calming assistance.

Accompanying this cover letter is a list of street segments that were evaluated, and then qualified for traffic calming assistance due to the presence of significant speeding. The list is sorted based upon Community Council area, then street name, to allow Board members of the Councils and the general public to review the data more efficiently – and to also see the results on roadways throughout the Municipality.

This information is based upon field-measured studies. The criterion used to determine program eligibility is an 85th percentile speed of at least 6 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. This 85th percentile criterion is accepted nation-wide as an industry/professional benchmark for acceptable driver behavior. It should be noted that some data that was considered outdated has been removed from the qualified streets list. We will restudy some of these streets that are expected to meet current standards for traffic calming, no additional action will be required by the Community Councils.

This list will be posted on the Department’s Traffic Calming webpage, for future reference.

It is anticipated that each Community Council will rank these proposed traffic calming projects against one another and against other Capital Improvement Priorities for their area. The Traffic Department will be available to assist the Councils in prioritizing these projects, however, it is expected that the Councils take the lead role since they are in a better position to assess the desires of the community.

The Traffic Department has included a column for our internal rankings of the severity of these problems. These internal rankings include a factor for speeds, volumes, school zones, pedestrian generators, and sidewalks. These are just intended to provide a somewhat objective measure to assist in weighing the relative merit of competing projects across the entire Municipality. In most cases, the rankings have been slightly updated from last year due to the addition of new priorities to the list.

It is important to keep in mind that it would be impractical to solve all of these problems at once. The Traffic Department does have some minimal funds that may be leveraged in the next year to address speeding on a fraction of these streets. Some of the highest priority streets will require additional capital funding to be secured in order to be addressed. Many of these streets will only be economically feasible to fix during the next anticipated street maintenance or reconstruction project.

The Community Councils should familiarize themselves with the streets on this list so that when a maintenance or reconstruction project is proposed by another agency in the future, they can advocate for traffic calming to be incorporated into that effort.
The Traffic Department will attempt to determine the optimal solution for each street on this list. Factors that will need to be considered in this optimal solution will include, but are not limited to; roadway classification, posted speed limit, traffic volume, existing and desired 85th percentile speeds, street width, block length, presence/absence of sidewalks and bicycle facilities, on-street parking utilization, grades, presence of pedestrian generators such as schools and parks, Muni bus routes, primary emergency access routes, accident history, land use, neighborhood character, economics, quality of life, and politics.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Respectfully,

Tim Myland, P.E.
Assistant Traffic Engineer / Traffic Calming Coordinator

cc:    Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
       Municipal Manager Bill Falsey
       Assembly Member Christopher Constant
       Assembly Member Fred Dyson
       Assembly Member Austin Quinn-Davidson
       Assembly Member Eric Croft
       Assembly Member Gretchen Wehmhoff
       Assembly Member Dick Traini
       Assembly Member Felix Rivera
       Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar
       Assembly Member Pete Petersen
       Assembly Member Suzanne LaFrance
       Assembly Member John Weddleton
       Federation of Community Councils Chair Matt Burkholder
       Abbott Loop Community Council Chair Bruce Roberts
       Airport Heights Community Council Chair Carolyn Ramsey
       Basher Community Council Chair Donald Crafts
       Bayshore/Klatt Community Council Chair Bob Hoffman
       Bear Valley Community Council Chair Scott Pexton
       Birchwood Community Council Chair Debbie Ossiander
       Campbell Park Community Council Chair Kevin Fimon
       Chugiak Community Council Chair Jake Horazdovsky
       Downtown Community Council Chair Michelle Klouda
       Eagle River Community Council Chair Tim Ebben
       Eagle River Valley Community Council Chair Dave Schade
       Eklutna Valley Community Council Chair Margan Grover
       Fairview Community Council Chair Allen Kemplin
       Girdwood Board of Supervisors
       Glen Alps Community Council Chair Tom Grenier
       Government Hill Community Council Chair Jody Sola
       Hillside Community Council Chair Bruce Vergason
       Huffman/O'Malley Community Council Chair Shirley Cote
       Midtown Community Council Chair Al Tamagni
       Mountain View Community Council Chair Jasmin Smith
       North Star Community Council Chair Samuel Moore
Northeast Community Council Chair Selina Metoyer
Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council Chair Steve Beardsley
Portage Valley Community Council Chair Joanne Blackburn
Rabbit Creek Community Council Chair Ky Holland
Rogers Park Community Council Chair Jim Wright
Russian Jack Community Council Chair Ed Leach
Sand Lake Community Council Chair Nikki Rose
Scenic Foothills Community Council Chair Dawn Groth
South Addition Community Council Chair Moira Gallagher
South Fork Community Council Chair Karl von Lahrte
Spenard Community Council Chair Jay Stange
Taku/Campbell Community Council Chair Ron Jordan
Tudor Area Community Council Chair Tod Butler
Turnagain Community Council Chair Cathy Gleason
Turnagain Arm Community Council Chair Beau Obrigewitch
University Area Community Council Chair Paul Stang
Representative Matt Claman
Representative Josh Revak
Representative Kelly Merrick
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Representative Laddie Shaw
Representative Lance Pruitt
Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Representative Geran Tarr
Representative Chris Tuck
Representative Sara Rasmussen
Representative Zack Fields
Representative Jennifer Johnston
Representative Chuck Kopp
Senator Mia Costello
Senator Chris Birch
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Lora Reinbold
Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senator Tom Begich
Senator Shelley Hughes
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