

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# STAFF REPORT

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- PROPOSED COUNTY CODE AMENDMENT
- PROPOSED PFM AMENDMENT
- APPEAL OF DECISION
- WAIVER REQUEST

Proposed Amendment Related to Traffic Calming and Cut-Through Measures.

Authorization to Advertise	<u>October 19, 2009</u>
Planning Commission Hearing	<u>November 18, 2009 at 8:15 p.m.</u>
Board of Supervisors Hearing	<u>December 7, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.</u>
Prepared by:	Code Analysis Division <u>Jan Leavitt (703) 324-1733</u> October 19, 2009

## STAFF REPORT

### A. Issue:

Board of Supervisors' authorization to advertise public hearings to consider a proposed amendment to the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). The proposed amendment updates the PFM by replacing the traffic calming standards with references to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) standards and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's (FCDOT's) Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP), and removing the cut-through requirements.

### B. Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed amendment.

### C. Timing:

Board of Supervisors Authorization to Advertise – October 19, 2009.

Planning Commission Public Hearing – November 18, 2009 at 8:15 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Public Hearing – December 7, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Effective Date – December 8, 2009 at 12:01 a.m.

### D. Source:

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

### E. Coordination:

The proposed amendment has been prepared by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and coordinated with FCDOT and the Office of the County Attorney. In addition, the proposed PFM amendment has been recommended for approval by the Engineering Standards Review Committee.

### F. Background:

The County's RTAP program, administered by FCDOT, assists communities in controlling traffic and parking in residential neighborhoods. Two of the RTAP tools utilized to control traffic are traffic calming and cut-through restrictions. Traffic calming measures are physical devices built within the roadway to slow traffic without restricting access. Cut-through measures include access restrictions such as turning prohibitions, diverters, or other traffic calming device

to reduce the volume of traffic traveling through a designated neighborhood. Typically, under the RTAP, existing subdivision streets are retrofitted with traffic calming and cut-through measures. However, such measures also may be utilized in the design of new subdivision streets and for newly constructed streets that have not yet been accepted into the State's secondary road system.

The Board adopted the County's traffic calming program, on January 28, 2002, consistent with VDOT's traffic calming program for local streets with certain amendments. The adopted program's guidelines and procedures include eligibility requirements, requirements for community support, and approval of the traffic calming plan by the community, FCDOT, VDOT, and the Board. On June 7, 2004, the Board adopted an amendment to the PFM to incorporate traffic calming and cut-through guidelines and procedures for existing and new subdivision streets in § 7-1200 (Traffic Calming) and § 7-1300 (Cut-Through) and VDOT's geometric standards for the physical devices used to control speeding in Plates #37-7(37M-7) thru #45-7 (45M-7) of the PFM. For the most part, the PFM's traffic calming and cut-through requirements for new subdivision streets are the same as the RTAP requirements for existing streets except for the community support provisions. The community support requirements are not applied to by-right developments and apply to developments subject to rezoning, special exception, or special permit only if stipulated by FCDOT.

Changes to the County's RTAP program have recently been adopted by the Board of Supervisors. On February 23, 2009, the Board endorsed changes to the Traffic Calming General Operating Procedures to make the process easier to implement, and on September 14, 2009, the Board endorsed proposed eligibility and procedural requirements of minor arterial streets for inclusion into the RTAP program. In addition, VDOT's "Traffic Calming Guide for Residential Streets" was revised in July, 2008. VDOT recommends that developers consult with them prior to submitting a new subdivision plan specifying traffic calming measures to ensure that the proposed design conforms to current VDOT standards and criteria.

As a result of the above actions, the PFM provisions related to traffic calming and cut-through restrictions have become outdated. Because the Board adopts the RTAP guidelines and procedures separately from the PFM, and VDOT periodically revises its guidelines and manuals, the PFM provisions on traffic calming, which essentially replicate these standards, can be kept current more readily by referencing these published standards.

#### G. Summary of Proposed Amendments:

The proposed amendment updates the PFM by:

- Replacing the traffic calming provisions with a reference to the RTAP requirements and VDOT standards. Specifically, references to VDOT

and the RTAP standards are being added to the PFM: one for existing streets, § 7-0101.5A, and the other for new streets, § 7-0101.5B. Section 7-1200 and Plates #37-7 (37M-7) thru #45-7 (45M-7) are being removed from the PFM, except for the community support requirements provided in §7-1207.1 and §7-1207.2 which are being retained as new §§ 7-0101.5B(1) and 7-0101.5B(2), respectively.

- Removing the RTAP standards related to cut-through, which are not used by developers, by deleting § 7-1300 in its entirety.

The proposed amendment allows the PFM to remain current and will assist designers in complying with the current traffic calming requirements for existing and new subdivision streets including VDOT standards which have been adopted for use in the RTAP program.

H. Attached Documents:

Attachment A - Proposed amendment to the PFM