

PROJECT SUMMARY

Villa Estates Traffic Calming Plan

Issue:

The Engineering Department has received multiple requests from residents within the Villa Estates community for traffic calming measures within the neighborhood to address the following:

- Speeding, crash incidents, and traffic safety along streets in the neighborhood,
- Improved pedestrian walkability and bicycle accessibility within the neighborhood, and
- Incidences of cut-through traffic on the north-south streets between Rosemont Ave and W 7th St, which drivers use to avoid US 15.

Current Conditions:

The north-south parallel streets within the Villa Estates neighborhood include Lee Place, Wilson Place, Grant Place, Taney Ave, Schley Avenue, and Biggs Avenue. These are City streets which are about 30-32 ft wide with 4 ft wide sidewalks on both sides (except for short segments of missing sidewalk along one side of Taney Ave, Schley Ave, and Biggs Ave). The east-west streets in the neighborhood include Meade Ave, Homestead Ave, Blue Ridge Ave, Belmont Ave, Evergreen Ave, and Bolton St. The east-west streets are also about 30-32 ft wide and generally do not have any sidewalks, except for short segments. On-street parallel parking is permitted on these streets, however, there are no marked parking lanes or double yellow center lines on these streets. These streets generally carry low volumes of traffic.

Analysis:

The Frederick Police Department has collected speed data along the north-south streets in the neighborhood over the past 5 years. The observed 85th percentile speed from the data collected is presented below. (Note: The 85th percentile speed represents the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers are driving.)

- Lee Place (Dec 2021): 27 mph (SB) and 29 mph (NB) [Aug 2022: NB 29.5 mph | SB 29.4 mph]
- Wilson Place (Oct 2020): 31 mph (SB) [Sep 2022: NB 33.8 mph | SB 31.5 mph]
- Grant Place (Feb 2022): 25 mph (NB)
- Biggs Ave (Apr 2017): 24 mph (NB)

The speeding complaints have been tracked by Frederick Police Department and routine enforcements are conducted.

Traffic Calming Proposal:

In response to the concerns noted above, the Engineering Department is proposing two striping and signing plans for the Villa Estates neighborhood with the goal of reducing the 85th percentile speeds overall, improving pedestrian walkability, and bicycle accessibility within the neighborhood. The proposed plans will consist of the following:

Option 1

- Provide a 7 ft wide parking lane on both sides of all north-south and east-west streets within the neighborhood, providing for a 16-18 ft wide two-way travel lane. The parking lanes will be separated from the travel lane with a 1 ft wide line.
- Provide crosswalk markings at all internal intersections, with high-intensity crosswalks across all north-south streets.
- Provide signage for raising awareness of pedestrian presence across all high-intensity crosswalks and bicyclists along all streets.

Option 2

- Provide a 7 ft wide parking lane on both sides of all north-south streets within the neighborhood, providing for an 18 ft wide two-way travel lane. The parking lanes will be separated from the travel lane with a 1 ft wide line.
- Remove on-street parking along all east-west streets to provide a 5 ft wide shared space for pedestrians, providing for a 20 ft wide two-way travel lane. The shared space will be separated from the travel lane with a 1 ft wide line.
- Provide crosswalk markings for pedestrians at all internal intersections, with high-intensity crosswalks across all north-south streets.
- Provide signage for raising awareness of pedestrian presence across all high-intensity crosswalks and bicyclists along all streets.

Key Points:

- Non-physical traffic calming measures to reduce travel speeds along Villa Estates neighborhood streets and to improve traffic and pedestrian/bicyclist safety are proposed.
- Engineering Department will continue to coordinate with Frederick Police Department to monitor travel speeds in the neighborhood, to evaluate the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures and to determine if further studies/measures are warranted.

Public Engagement Plan:

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| • Communications: | City Press Release, Email Notice and Social Media Alert | Sep 19, 2022 |
| • Engineering: | Present proposed plans to Street Safety Gang | Sep 20, 2022 |
| • Engineering: | Present proposed plans to NAC 6/9 | Sep 28, 2022 |
| • Engineering: | Present proposed plans to BPAC | Oct 04, 2022 |

Planned Implementation Schedule (with community support):

- Estimate: End of October 2022

Attachments:

- Villa Estates Traffic Calming Plan – Option 1 with Detail (Drafts)
- Villa Estates Traffic Calming Plan – Option 2 with Detail (Drafts)

Date: September 19, 2022