

Category: OPERATIONS

Subject: Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Policy is to ensure that Penticton's streets are livable, contribute to community capacity, and offer safe and inclusive travel choices. The policy will support livable, healthy, and safe neighbourhoods by providing guidance for a systematic and transparent process to identify, assess, respond to, and report on community traffic issues.

Scope

This Council policy applies to all those who are involved in the visioning, design, piloting and iterating, building, maintenance, and evaluation of Penticton's streets including members of City Council, staff, consultants and the public.

Definition

"Neighbourhood Traffic Management" means physical measures that minimize traffic shortcutting and speeding to enhance safety for residents and all road users. Neighbourhood Traffic Management also includes initiatives that raise awareness and educate drivers about appropriate behaviour in residential neighbourhoods.

Policy Statement

The City of Penticton commits that when the City and its partners engage, plan, design, pilot, experiment, iterate, activate, retrofit, build, operate, maintain, and evaluate our streets, our decisions will maintain and, wherever financially and physically feasible, enhance the livability of these streets, particularly in locations where screening data or the reported experiences of residents indicate that these outcomes are not being met.

The City of Penticton will strive to mitigate the community impacts of the transportation system by managing traffic in residential neighbourhoods.

The City will work to understand the diverse needs of all Citizens when developing design guides and documents; drafting regulations; engaging; piloting and iterating; and making decisions on the funding, operations, and design of streets. The City will:

1. Seek public input and honour local knowledge by aligning with Council's approved Community Engagement Policy and best practices in public engagement.
2. Work with various stakeholders on initiatives that create a sense of ownership and pride in public infrastructure.
3. Ensuring technical guides and administrative policies reflect diverse mobility needs and transportation equity for all users and modes.

4. Develop programs that will enhance safety and community livability in accordance with Penticton’s Transportation Master Plan, Official Community Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan.
5. Apply engineering design to solve measured and perceived safety concerns, like vehicle speeding, and develop resident-accessible programs to change the experience and culture on their street.
6. Prioritize Neighbourhood Traffic Management initiatives based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria that reflect the diversity of Penticton’s neighbourhoods in an equitable way.
7. Whenever possible, implementation of Neighbourhood Traffic Management initiatives will rely on a collaborative relationship with the City’s Capital Construction & Maintenance Programs to leverage the cost effectiveness of both programs.
8. Acknowledge that a flexible approach to managing project funding, scope, and timelines is necessary to ensure that each neighbourhood’s unique traffic issues are recognized, assessed, and responded to in a manner that respects local context.
9. Allocate funding as budget permits to meet the demands and the vision of this policy to address safety concerns like vehicle speeding and infrastructure deficiencies like building missing sidewalks.

Policy administration and implementation will be monitored, supported and actioned by the City of Penticton’s Engineering Department by:

1. Managing intake forms, data collection, and community programs whereby residents and community groups can share concerns and access services to enhance their neighbourhood streets.
2. Prioritizing projects: Creating a framework for prioritization that considers the extent of the challenges, adjacent land uses, vulnerability and volume of users, cost and ease of implementation, and alignment with other capital projects or maintenance programs.
3. Developing progressive design options: applying proven solutions and testing new ideas from other cities and design manuals will reveal the approaches that are most cost effective for different neighbourhood types.
4. Foster a culture of experimentation: Penticton neighbourhoods were built in different ways and at different times. Collaborating to solve measured and perceived resident problems will mean applying some existing solutions and some that will be new. Testing, iterating, and evaluating will help enhance active travel choices and the safety of all users.
5. Completing post-implementation evaluations: best practices are evolving quickly in North America and evaluation of new interventions will help answer which design decisions work best and belong in Penticton neighbourhoods. Specifications and design practices will be updated as practices are shown to be effective.

This Policy will be reviewed and updated as required when the City updates its Transportation Master Plan.

Approval History			
Replaces: Transportation Safety Policy 29/2016			
Approved by Council on:	February 6, 2024	Resolution No.:	33/2024

Certified Correct:



 Angie Collison, Corporate Officer