



City of Homer

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Homer City Council

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Memorandum 19-153

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Councilmember Rachel Lord
DATE: November 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Traffic Calming Policy

The purpose of this memo is to get Council approval to work on a policy for the Homer Police Department when addressing neighborhood speeding concerns, including when Council may allocate additional City resources to address neighborhood speeding concerns.

Current practice is when the police department receives a speeding complaint, the area is posted for extra patrols. If two complaints are received within a week of each other in the same neighborhood, the area is posted for more aggressive and regular extra patrols. Three or more complaints will result in the speed monitoring unit being deployed to the area (see below). Council may, given certain circumstance, want to allocated additional resources for traffic mitigation.

In 2018 the City purchased a traffic monitoring device that can be placed on any signpost and collect data on the speed and frequency of passing vehicles. This device has been placed at Ben Walters Avenue, Kachemak Drive, and Mountain View. According to Homer Police Department, significant speeding was not observed at Mountain View or Ben Walters, though Kachemak Drive presented concerns that triggered dispatching additional patrol.

I would like Council to develop a policy that provides some context and metrics regarding how HPD addresses significant speeding concerns, including data interpretation from the traffic monitoring device, how Council could respond to elevated concerns, and what resources would likely be required.

This memo authorizes City staff (Public Works, Planning and Homer Police Department) to work on a traffic calming policy to bring before Council. The policy would encompass the following:

- 1) What triggers placement of a monitoring device, or other recommendations to gauge traffic concerns, in a neighborhood. Current practice is to deploy the speed monitoring unit to an area that we have received three or more speeding complaints from within a short period of time, generally one to four weeks.
- 2) Narrative on how to analyze metrics, including contextual information and how to interpret it (residential neighborhood, dangerous winding road, etc)

- 3) A list of potential traffic calming measures Council/HPD could implement and the resources required. Examples include permanent traffic monitoring signage to physical barriers.