

Staff response to Traffic Calming request on Lochinvar Avenue

We would like to inform you that in September we collected data to process your application. In an effort to allocate our resources where they are most needed, the City has a Traffic Calming program in place that outlines our qualifying criteria for traffic calming measures in order to address residents' concerns such as yours. Per this policy, in order for a street to be eligible for traffic calming, 85 percent of the vehicles driving on the roadway must be traveling at speeds above 32 miles per hour (MPH) or the average traffic volume must exceed 1000 vehicles per day (vpd). Where there is concern for a few drivers considerably exceeding the speed limit, at least five percent of the vehicles driving on the roadway must be traveling at speeds above 35 MPH.

Based on data collected during September 2015, the local segment of Lochinvar Avenue, between Dunford Way and Inverness Way, for which you applied for traffic calming does not meet the criteria outlined in our policy. Overall, the conditions of the roadway relating to the aforementioned criteria are 19.9 MPH and only four percent of the vehicles exceed 35 MPH, respectively. The segment does not meet the criteria in our policy; therefore the City will not be implementing any traffic calming measures on Lochinvar Avenue.

The City recently received your YouTube video links regarding access at Laurelwood Elementary and specifically traffic at the intersection of Inverness Way and Lochinvar Avenue. Staff reviewed the videos and also visited the site on various days of the week to observe the traffic situation.

The intersection of Inverness and Lochinvar is all-way stop and provides the main access to the school. To facilitate pedestrian crossings, a crossing guard is also present at the intersection during school start and end times. Staff findings are as follows:

- Inverness has higher traffic volume than Lochinvar during the morning school drop off time from 8:00AM to 8:15AM.
- Almost all of the morning and evening traffic going through the intersection is associated with school traffic.
- The maximum queue length observed was 15 vehicles travelling east towards school on Inverness at its intersection with Lochinvar in the morning.
- Staff observed a high number of children walking to the school, and they were helped by the crossing guard to cross the intersection.
- The crossing guard frequently stopped traffic on all approaches of the intersection to ensure safety of the school kids, which resulted in some additional queues.
- The traffic congestion only lasted for 15 minutes between 8:00AM to 8:15AM in the morning, and after that, the queues dissipated. This is due to a school start time of 8:15AM. Staff recorded a video, which we can make available on request, which shows no queues present after the start of school.
- The drivers and majority of the pedestrian traffic was moving in an orderly manner following traffic rules. However, on a few occasions, drivers blocked the intersection because of parents blocking the entrance to the school as they dropped off children.
- The intersection has zero crashes during the last three years. Staff did not find an operational deficiency at the intersection.

As we noted in our previous emails and phone conversations, the other segments you noted in your request, are classified as residential collectors and do not qualify for traffic calming measures. Therefore per our Traffic Calming Policy we did not place tubes for a seven-day machine counts. However, staff has also reviewed other various locations in the

neighborhood to determine if improvements are needed. These studies identified the following improvements:

- Installation of high-visibility crosswalks along Dunford Way at the intersections of Lochinvar Avenue, Partridge Avenue, Oriole Avenue, and Norman Drive/Marion Way. Construction bids have been received, and the City is in the process of awarding a contract for construction.
- Installation of an In-Road Warning Light System at the eastern crossing of Dunford Way and Quail Avenue. Construction bids have been received, and the City is in the process of awarding a contract for construction.

Lastly, stop speed surveys were conducted on Nightingale, Peacock, and Lochinvar Avenues, and the free-flow speeds were found to correlate with the threshold of the posted speed limits; no speeding issue was identified.

We appreciate your interest in traffic and pedestrian safety. If you have questions regarding the result of the traffic calming investigation, you may contact Shahid Abbas, Traffic and Transportation Manager, at (408) 730-7330.