

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Discussion: Traffic Calming Study: Greenbelt Center City

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 pm., held in Council Chambers and via Zoom.

In attendance were: Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development; Jaimee Fearer, Assistant Director of Planning; Dawane Martinez, Human Resources Director and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Others present: Alan Wang and Angie Strevig, Greenman-Pederson, Inc.; Chair Benjamin Friedman and Isabelle Gournay; Advisory Planning Board Members and others.

Greenbelt Traffic Calming Measures Discussed

The Greenbelt City Council held a work session to discuss traffic calming measures in the Greenbelt Center City area. Ms. Fearer reported on a recent study conducted over three months, focusing on Ridge Road, Lakeside Drive, Lastner Lane, and Greenhill Road. This study is part of the updated Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, aiming to enhance safety and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Ms. Fearer mentioned that city staff, the Advisory Planning Board (APB), and the public reviewed the draft report, and further comments will be gathered before final submission to the APB and Council. The project is expected to conclude by spring 2025.

Mr. Wang presented the concept of traffic calming, which involves identifying project areas, gathering data, evaluating it, prioritizing locations, and recommending strategies. He shared data from automatic traffic recorders, including average daily traffic and speeds, to assign point values based on traffic conditions and collision history. The team also demonstrated various traffic calming techniques and made specific recommendations for each location.

The Council discussed narrowing pavement widths on Ridge Road and Lastner Lane to reduce speeds and enhance pedestrian safety. Recommendations include realigning diagonal crosswalks perpendicularly, adding bump-outs, and extending stop bars. Shared roads for cyclists and sidewalk rehabilitation were also proposed.

Mr. Roberts expressed concerns about truck access to the water tower, prompting Ms. Strevig to suggest further assessment. Ms. Fearer and Ms. Hruby highlighted that these are conceptual

proposals requiring more evaluation. The Council reviewed various improvement ideas, including removing parking spaces, adding sidewalks and crosswalks, and using curb bump-outs and raised crosswalks for better safety.

Ms. Fearer noted that some proposals have already been submitted for implementation. A replacement for the non-compliant traffic signal at 22 Ridge Road with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon was also recommended.

Additionally, improvements for roads like Southway, Ridge Road, and Lakeside Drive were discussed, focusing on curb bump-outs, extended stop bars, and stormwater management. Artistic painting to visually narrow intersections was suggested. The high costs of concrete work and the need for curbs during road resurfacing were addressed.

The Council considered installing temporary curbs with flex posts at bump-outs. Mr. Roberts questioned the efficacy of stoplights versus flashing lights, and Ms. Hruby confirmed that a rectangular rapid flashing beacon is preferred. The Council also discussed adding a push-button pedestrian signal at Green Ridge House.

The Council discussed adding more crosswalks where pedestrians currently cross without sidewalks. They considered a sidewalk between Lakeview Circle and Maplewood but highlighted issues with steep drop-offs and ADA compliance. Concerns were raised about topography and parking impacts, particularly near Greenbelt Elementary School.

Councilmembers noted gaps in the pedestrian network and the need for safer crossings. Improvements, like a new connection between 46 Court and Eastway 44 Court are underway. Speeding on Hanover Parkway is also a concern with plans for enhancements using ARPA funding. Proposed enhancements for Greenhill and Crescent Roads include curb bump-outs and sidewalks.

Mayor Jordan emphasized the need for further discussions with GHI while public comments are being reviewed. John Campanile of Laurel Hill Road raised cyclist safety concerns regarding bump-outs, suggesting gradual designs. Benjamin Friedman, from APB, noted successful bump out implementations in Chicago and stressed the importance of stop signs at crosswalk intersections.

Mr. Friedman suggested prioritizing areas based on reported accidents versus traffic volume. The Council is considering this along with potential grant funding options while construction may start in fall 2025 or spring 2026.

Informational Items

The Council discussed EPA Community Charge Grant Partnership Agreement due Thursday, November 21, 2024. The deal is in partnership with the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area community members and the City. The grant focuses primarily on Cherrywood Lane, Complete Green Streets, Phase I and Phase II and sidewalk improvements along Greenbelt Road near

Greenbelt Park. The Council also discussed the need for improvements to the sidewalk in front of the library and the potential for a hybrid PGCMA meeting.

Ms. Weaver moved that the Council move into a Closed Session in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or other personnel matters that affects one or more specific individuals.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL	Ms. Knesel	-	Yes
	Ms. McKinney	-	Yes
	Ms. Pompei	-	Yes
	Ms. Pope	-	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	No
	Ms. Weaver	-	Yes
	Mayor Jordan	-	Yes

The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Roberts). Ms. Weaver announced that the Council will not return to the open session after the closed session.

The meeting ended at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

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Deputy City Clerk