Guidelines for the designation of Slow Streets in the unincorporated County communities

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline a process for the designation of Slow Streets in the unincorporated County communities and provide implementation guidance. Slow Streets or streets that are signed to promote traffic calming and encourage physical activity, such as walking, biking, or running are a tool to help communities comply with the County’s Safer at Home Order that was put in place as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Alerting and assisting drivers in reducing vehicle speeds can help residents feel more comfortable accessing streets in their neighborhoods to exercise, thereby protecting residents from overcrowded sidewalks and facilitating social distancing consistent with public health orders.

A. Slow Street Implementation Process

The following steps outline the process for the designation of Slow Streets within the unincorporated County communities.

1. Application Submission – A sponsor must submit an online application to Los Angeles County Public Works identifying the streets that are proposed as being designated as Slow Streets. Applicants without access to a computer may call toll-free 1 (833) 894-5226 for assistance.

   Slow street sponsors can be residents, community-based organizations, nonprofits, and/or other organizations.

   There is no monetary cost to be a sponsor of Slow Streets nor is a permit necessary since Public Works will procure and install all the appropriate equipment and signage. However, sponsors must agree to be slow street ambassadors for the street network that is proposed and are responsible for the following:

   a. Assisting the County in communicating the purpose of the slow street designation with residents.

   b. Checking in on each street segment often to confirm traffic calming slow street signage and equipment installed by Public Works remain in place and all public health guidelines are being followed, including social distancing.

   c. Notifying Public Works if the installed signage or equipment is missing, broken, or vandalized. Communicating with Public Works periodically about the proposed slow street network.
2. **Application Review** – Public Works’ staff will review the application for completeness and assess if a slow streets designation can be made on the proposed streets.

The designation of a Slow Street may be considered if the following criteria are met:

a. The proposed Slow Street is a local residential street (local collector streets with low average daily traffic will be considered on a case-by-case basis).

b. The proposed Slow Street is part of a network of neighborhood streets that can also be designated as Slow Streets.

   i. To facilitate active use, it is recommended that between 10 and 25 intersections or street segments and/or approximately 2 miles be designated as Slow Streets.

   ii. Proposed designations with less than 10 intersections or street segments should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The following will also be considered when determining if a slow street designation is appropriate:

a. Park need category from the Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment associated with the community the proposed Slow Street is located.

b. The proximity of the proposed Slow Street to Vision Zero Collision Concentration Corridors.

c. Connection to other identified community assets.

3. **Slow Street Implementation**

a. **Messaging** – Messaging on program materials, such as temporary street signs, websites, or other program materials should encourage slow driving. Street closure messaging is not being considered at this time.

b. **Equipment and Signage** – Public Works will deploy the necessary equipment and signage to properly designate Slow Streets. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:

   i. 42-inch high yellow (if placed in the center of the road) or white (if placed on the parking lane) pinch delineator(s) with 14-inch pinch on 3-inch base, or similar, affixed to pavement with epoxy to prevent displacement by wind or other means. Reflective strip affixed to the delineator below sign.
ii. 24-inch by 36-inch (maximum) foam board sign(s) with reflective sheeting and printed traffic calming message affixed to the delineator(s).

c. **Location Considerations** – Equipment and signage should be installed on local residential streets at the main entry points to neighborhoods where feasible. These points could include the intersection of a local residential street with a local collector street or limited secondary highway. Equipment and signage need not be installed at the intersection of two local residential streets.

Equipment and signage should be installed in such a way to provide adequate sight distance and not impede vehicular traffic, including emergency vehicles while serving to calm vehicular speeds. General placement guidance follows:

i. Equipment and signage should be placed a minimum of 10 feet behind the curb or edge of pavement prolongation.

ii. Equipment and signage should be placed behind the crosswalk (if one exists) or the stop bar (if applicable).

iii. Ideally the equipment and signage should be placed on the centerline of the street. However, if a minimum travel lane width of 8.5 feet cannot be maintained around the equipment and sign(s), (considering the presence of on-street parking) then the equipment and sign(s) may be placed on the side of the street in the parking lane.

iv. Depending on street width and field conditions, additional equipment and signage may be placed.

d. **Duration** – Once a Slow Street is established, the equipment and signage will remain in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the County’s Health Officer lifts the Safer at Home Order deeming social distancing no longer necessary or until the County and/or sponsor decides to end the closure. The County reserves the right to remove the equipment and signage at any time, for any reason, including lack of funding, lack of effectiveness, or repeated vandalism of equipment or signs.

This guideline is intended to be a living document and periodic updates, as deemed necessary, will be made.

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