

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background. Requests for stop signs. Requests for street openings, street closings. Requests for pedestrian and bicycle trail access; opposition to trail extension. Requests for public transportation improvements: The Leesburg Town Council grappled with growing demands for access to or protection from transportation facilities. Rather than continue to respond, *ad hoc*, to individual requests as they arose, the Council asked for a systematic look at residential traffic management needs and appointed the Residential Traffic Management Task Force for this purpose.

Goals. Effective traffic management in residential areas recognizes that automobiles are but one mode of transportation that must be accommodated in balance with others, namely, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and that the accommodation of all traffic modes must be balanced against the need to sustain residential areas as healthy, livable neighborhoods. “Traffic calming” is a designation for a variety of approaches to slowing traffic, ranging from educational programs to erection of physical devices. Other measures aim to divert traffic to other routes. Still others encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic or use of public transportation.

Recommendations. The Residential Traffic Management Plan presents recommendations for staffing and evaluating traffic management requests using a committee comprising both town staff and citizens. It also outlines programs for managing residential traffic that offer a variety of traffic management devices after initial analysis confirms the eligibility of the streets and the nature of the traffic problems.

Integrated solutions. Solving residential traffic problems must range beyond mere management of motorized traffic on neighborhood streets. We must achieve a balanced transportation network that promotes the quality of life in Leesburg’s residential neighborhoods and the viability of its commercial areas. Such a network should accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic and provide options for getting around efficiently via an affordable public transportation network. Attractive landscaping and signage features which delineate neighborhoods from commercial areas are an integral part of the traffic calming program as well as amenities in themselves.

Citizen confidence. The Residential Traffic Management Plan offers the Council and citizens of Leesburg a systematic approach to resolving residential traffic complaints, assures that requests will be judged in accordance with adopted criteria, promoting uniformity and predictability in outcomes, and increases confidence in the fairness of the process and individual treatment.

Reinforcing strategies. The tools to implement the Task Force’s recommended plan lie within the Council’s reach right now. Additional implementation strategies call for reinforcing the Residential Traffic Management Plan by amendment to town plans and ordinances and pursuit of changes to state laws and policies to promote the town’s abilities to achieve its transportation goals.