RESOLUTION NO. 46-01 (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPROVING THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City of Watsonville Neighborhood Traffic Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto and further identified as Exhibit "A," is hereby approved.

*************************************************************************

The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the __27th__ day of __February__, 2001, by Council Member __Gomez__, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Council Member __Bobeda__, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members: Bobeda, de la Paz, Doering-Nielsen, Gomez, Phares, Carter

NOES: Council Members: None

ABSENT: Council Members: Lopez

ATTEST:

[Signature]
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
City Attorney
CITY OF WATSONVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN

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Attachment/Exhibit to:
Resolution No. 46-01 (CM)

EXHIBIT A
Page 1 of 3
CITY OF WATSONVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN

PURPOSE:

The City of Watsonville Neighborhood Traffic Plan was developed in an effort to address concerns expressed by residents regarding speeding and other traffic complaints in their neighborhoods and enables citizens and/or community groups to become involved with the improvement process. The Plan is based upon a combination of various elements. The basic elements include: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering.

Education

The first steps to solve a speeding problem is to let drivers know that your neighborhood is concerned about speeding and to help them become more aware of their speeds. A variety of tools can be used to accomplish this, including:

• Neighborhood Speed Watch (defined under - Second Tier Progressive Measures)
• Radar Speed Monitoring Trailers.
• Additional speed limit signs or other advisory signs posted in areas where warranted.

Enforcement

Another option is to request additional enforcement of speed limits. Speed data gathered during your Neighborhood Speed Watch can be used to support this request.

Engineering

If a neighborhood’s concern about speeding still exists and they would like to further enhance the livability of their community, they can request that the City install physical improvements such as speed humps and other "traffic calming devices" that could make drivers reduce their speed. This would require City Council action and could involve a financial agreement on the part of the neighborhood residents. There are potential grant funding sources for these types of improvements.

Attachment/Exhibit to:
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GOALS:
This step-by-step process is intended to help Watsonville residents and City staff to resolve neighborhood traffic problems cooperatively and efficiently by:

- Encouraging resident involvement in solutions to their neighborhood traffic problems.
- Improving neighborhood livability by protecting neighborhoods from “undesirable traffic”
  “undesirable traffic” can be defined as:
  - traffic using a residential street as a shortcut or detour or;
  - traffic operating at excessive speeds or;
  - vehicles with an origin and destination outside the neighborhood.
- Utilizing public resources efficiently and appropriately by prioritizing traffic mitigation requests in accordance with procedures supported by documented data and established criteria.
- Increasing access, safety and comfort for alternative transportation users on neighborhood streets.
- Changing the overall view of transportation modes in the City through education, public participation, planning and design, to more accurately reflect overall city transportation and environmental policies and values.

REQUIREMENTS:

The Neighborhood Traffic Plan may be implemented in a residential neighborhood where the street characteristics fall within the following requirements:

- Streets must be primarily residential streets and be classified as a local or collector street.
- Vehicular traffic volumes should exceed 500 vehicles per day but not more than 2000 vehicles per day.
- Changes in traffic flow would not divert significant amounts of traffic to other residential streets.
- Inclusion of street will not result in unreasonable liability exposure for the City.
- Watsonville Police and Fire Departments review and approve all requests for satisfactory emergency service access.

Notes:

Implementation of the Neighborhood Traffic Plan will be in accordance with the procedures set forward in this document, in keeping with sound engineering practices and within the limits of available resources.

The Neighborhood Traffic Plan is not designed to address dangerous intersections, mitigate noise from major arterials, redesign the overall transportation/street classification system or effect a transportation modal shift.

Projects should encourage and enhance bicycle, pedestrian and transit access to neighborhood destinations, while maintaining reasonable automobile access.
PROGRESSIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS TRAFFIC PROBLEMS:

The following measures should be considered for implementation, in order of Tier number, to the extent necessary to address traffic problems. All concerns and requests received are first brought to the monthly Traffic Committee meetings for discussion.

No formal process is required for First Tier approaches.

First Tier measures (these are currently used on all streets, regardless of classification).
- Police Presence
- Police Enforcement
- Radar Trailer
- Improvement and/or replacement of existing traffic control installations (i.e. outdated/ faded signs, restriping, etc.)
- Post additional signs (speed limit, radar enforcement, other)

Formal Process (as described under “PROCESS”, on page 5)

Second Tier measures
Would require implementation of First Tier measures prior to initiation of Second Tier measures.
- Neighborhood Monitoring Program: Involves a signed agreement with an organized neighborhood group. This could include but is not limited to the following:
  - neighborhood meetings to increase awareness
  - education techniques
    - Distribution of flyers or brochures on topics such as pedestrian safety, driver responsibilities, etc. through homeowners associations or neighborhood groups and schools; and
  - Public service announcements and articles/ local newspapers.
- temporary speeding awareness lawn signs or door hangers for distribution within the neighborhood
- Neighborhood Speed Watch- includes agreement for “loaning” radar gun to residents after receiving instruction on usage. Purchase of a radar gun exclusively for this purpose would be pursued through grant funding sources.

Third Tier measures
Would require Second Tier measures prior to initiating Third Tier approach. Would also require Engineering Study and report to City Council for approval.
- additional pavement striping (narrow lanes)
- speed humps
- traffic chokers
- median barriers
- one way streets
- turning restrictions
- raised intersections
- other physical modifications.

Other Related Topics:
- Crosswalks (considerations on case by case basis; routes to school)
- Stop signs (requests for these will be considered, however, existing warrant system shall be used which includes consideration of items such as accident data, traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes, etc.)
- Parking (considerations on case by case basis)

PROCESS
The City of Watsonville’s policy sets forth the process and criteria by which citizen initiated concerns may be considered for Tier 2 and 3 measures. For ongoing concerns brought up by neighborhood:

A. Contact the City of Watsonville for a Neighborhood Traffic Plan - Request Form. These can be obtained by contacting the Public Works and Utilities Department at (831) 728-6049 or Customer Service at (831) 728-6133.

B. Fill out and submit request form to City. Request form will include the following:
   1. Neighborhood group will be required to have a minimum of 2 primary contacts.
   2. Description of the nature of the problem or concern.
   3. List of “approaches” that the group would like to consider.
   4. Signatures of at least 15 of neighborhood residents showing support for modifications within their neighborhood and that agree to attend a meeting to discuss a Neighborhood Traffic Plan. This also includes a pledge that they agree to educate themselves on the advantages of driving the speed limit and will encourage others to do so.

C. Discussion at the Traffic Committee Meeting with follow up report to the Neighborhood Response Team.

D. City staff to work with Neighborhood Group on implementation of various strategies under Tier 2 measures.

E. If Tier 2 measures are not helping, Tier 3 measures may be considered. This would require an Engineering study, further discussion with the neighborhood group, and a staff report to City Council with a recommendation. Tier 3 measures involve a cost element. Neighborhood participation with a cost sharing agreement may be an option.

For the Tier 3 measures, the City of Watsonville will determine the boundary of the neighborhood or “affected area” to be included in a petition, including the directly and indirectly
affected areas. The residents and owners at properties immediately adjacent to any proposed Tier 3 modifications must accept a proposal 100%. An eligible property is a residential or commercial unit and shall include property owners, tenants, business owners, and long-term tenants such as mobile home park residents within the “affected area”. In case of conflict between property owner and tenant, the property owner’s vote takes precedence over the tenant

A. At a minimum, petitions submitted for Tier 3 measures to the City for review must include the following:

1. A statement that all persons signing the petition acknowledge it is the City’s policy that they will be required to participate in costs directly associated with physical improvements described under the Tier 3 measures. Participation can include seeking/secure other sources of funding such as grants, etc., in lieu of additional taxes or forming an improvement district.

2. The petition language and a drawing indicating the proposed improvements must be reviewed and approved by the City prior to circulation to ensure accuracy and clarity.

As previously mentioned, Tier 3 measures will only be considered after Tier 2 measures have been exhausted.

Note: Circulation of petitions, flyers and/or any information in your neighborhood should take into account United States Code, Title 18, Section 1725, Putting Mailable Matter in Mailboxes Without Postage. (See Appendix E)
CITY OF WATSONVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN

REQUEST FORM

After reviewing this information, we believe our neighborhood traffic situation warrants the City's Neighborhood Traffic Plan. The following signatures representing at least fifteen different residents in the neighborhood indicate the neighborhood's commitment to work with the City for a safer traffic environment within our neighborhood.

We, the undersigned, pledge to educate ourselves and others on the advantages of driving the speed limit and will encourage others to do so.

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CONTACTS:

Name __________________________ Name __________________________
Address _________________________ Address _________________________
Day Phone ______________________ Day Phone ______________________

Neighborhood: ________________________________

*Our neighborhood includes the area indicated on the attached map (page 3).*
What traffic concerns do you have in your neighborhood?:
(please include as much information as possible including things such as specific location, time of day, day of week, etc.)

____

____

____

____

Which measures are residents most interested in implementing?

_____ Neighborhood meetings

_____ Distributing informational flyers/ Door hangers

_____ Lawn signs

_____ Neighborhood Speed Watch

_____ Other:_____________________________________

Please list preferences for a meeting

Day (please circle)  
Option 1
M T W Th F

Option 2
M T W Th F

Time (please list)

Location (please list)

Thank you for taking the time to complete the request form. After completing the form, please return it to:
Public Works and Utilities, 250 Main Street, P.O. Box 50,000, Watsonville, Ca 95077 Attn: Traffic Committee
HELPING YOU MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER

Speeding traffic on residential streets is a concern for many Watsonville residents. The City of Watsonville has set up a Neighborhood Speed Watch Program to help you to begin the process to slow speeding vehicles in your neighborhood. This program is implemented by concerned citizens and is designed to increase awareness of speeding and make our streets safer.

HOW DOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD SPEED WATCH WORK?

Neighborhood residents work in teams to record speeding vehicles on their streets. The information is gathered and forwarded to the Watsonville Police Department which notifies the registered owners of the vehicles recorded driving more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

HOW CAN I START A SPEED WATCH IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

The Speed Watch is incorporated into the Neighborhood Traffic Plan which works with your organized neighborhood groups in addressing concerns regarding undesirable traffic in your neighborhood. As your neighborhood representative, you can:

1. Make an appointment to check out a radar gun* from the Watsonville Police Department, Traffic Division at (831) 728-6117. You will receive basic training on its use and proper data collection techniques.

2. Schedule data collection at times you feel speeding is at its worst.

3. Organize volunteers. A minimum of two volunteers are required: one to operate the radar gun, the other to record the vehicle information.

4. Return the radar gun and completed speed data collection forms to the Watsonville Police Department, Traffic Division.

* Because of the value of the equipment, a deposit - by credit card or in cash- will be required in order to check out the radar gun. This will be refunded to you upon return of the equipment.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SPEED WATCH DATA IS TURNED IN?

License numbers of vehicles going more than 10 mph over the posted speed limit are matched to the registered owner through the Department of Motor Vehicles database. A letter from the Watsonville Police Department is then sent to the vehicle owners. It informs them that their vehicle was observed speeding on a neighborhood street and asks them to obey the posted speed limit.

For More information on the Neighborhood Traffic Plan, please contact the Public Works and Utilities Department at (831) 728-6049 or Customer Service at (831) 728-6133.
Door Hanger and Lawn Sign (to be made bilingual- English/ Spanish)

(Watsonville logo) CITY OF WATSONVILLE

BE NEIGHBORLY

PLEASE SLOW DOWN

◆ NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN ◆

Attachment/Exhibit to:
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EXHIBIT A
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APPENDIX: D
HOW DOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN WORK?

For routine traffic-related concern:

Contact The City of Watsonville 728-6049

Requests for signs, signal light, speed bumps etc. TO INITIATE TIER 2.

Contact The City of Watsonville 728-6049 to obtain NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC PLAN REQUEST FORM

N.T.P. REQUEST FORM
1. Two Primary Contacts
2. Description of Concern.
3. Desired "approaches" to concern.
4. Signatures of 60% of affected neighborhood residents.

See Process on page 5

TRAFFIC ENGINEER

Tier 1 or Tier 2?

TIER 1

Tier 1 Effective?

TIER 2

Neighborhood Awareness Meetings
Education - Flyers, brochures, P.S.A.s
Speeding Awareness notices
Neighborhood Speed Watch

Tier 2 Effective?

TIER 3

Additional Striping
Traffic Calming Devices
Traffic Flow Restrictions
Other physical modifications.

Attachment/Exhibit to:
Resolution No 46-01 (CM)
TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE
(ON CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)

Section 1725, Putting Mailable Matter in Mailboxes Without Postage

§ 1725. Postage unpaid on deposited mail matter

Whoever knowingly and willfully deposits any mailable matter such as statements of accounts, circulars, sale bills, or other like matter, on which no postage has been paid, in any letter box established, approved, or accepted by the Postal Service for the receipt or delivery of mail matter on any mail route with intent to avoid payment of lawful postage thereon, shall for each such offense be fined not more than $300.