

AGENDA TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 AT 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 150 EAST MONROE STREET
WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382

1. PERSONS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

A. Beth A. Taylor - Mayor
Cathy D. Pattison - Vice-Mayor
Holly E. Atkins - Council Member
Gary L. Gillman - Council Member
Candice N. Johnson - Council Member
T. Brian Freeman - Town Manager
Elaine Holeton - Assistant Town Manager
Sherry G. Corvin - Town Clerk
Paul Cassell - Interim Town Attorney
John Woods - Planning Director

2. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

- A. Approval of Agenda (requires motion and roll call vote)
- B. Discussion regarding a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application regarding traffic calming on Peppers Ferry Road/Monroe Street
 - 1. Staff Report/Presentation by Planning Director John Woods

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL



AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date:	September 11, 2023
Subject:	Work Session – Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

SUMMARY:

Planning Director John Woods will discuss a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application regarding traffic calming on Peppers Ferry Road/Monroe Street.

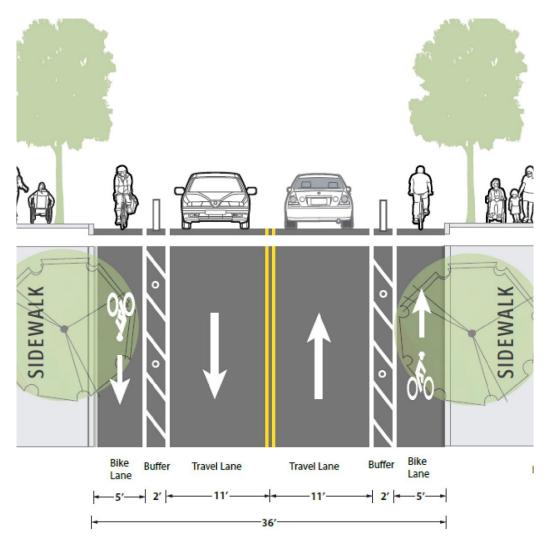
Recommended Action

No action required at this time.

Monroe Street Traffic Calming Options

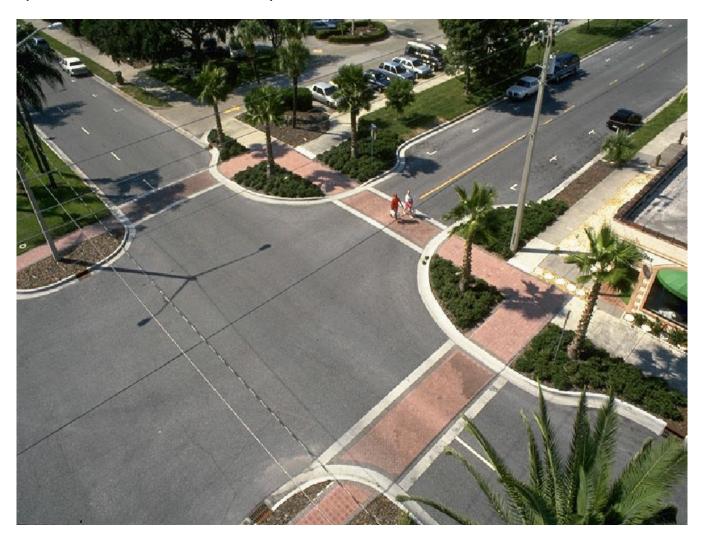
Options for traffic calming on Monroe Street are limited. The street cross-section used on the street is typically used for 35 MPH collector streets. Most drivers when faced with this type of street will drive around 35 MPH because it is the speed that feels safe. Changing the posted speed limit to a lower speed is seldom effective in reducing speed traveled because most drivers drive by the way a road feels rather than by the posted speed signage. Modifications that might be used include the following, which can be used individually or in combination.

Option 1: Bike Lanes



Adding bike lanes is often used as a way to make a street safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Monroe Street is part of National Bike Route 76 and would warrant the use of bike lanes. However, installation of bike lanes would require eliminating all on street parking, which is problematic given the presence of four homes that do not currently have any off-street parking. This is the cheapest option since it can be accomplished with new striping only.

Option 2: Narrowed Lanes with Curb Bump-Outs



Reducing lane width can slow vehicles. Curb bump-outs at street corners and mid-block on longer blocks can be helpful. Typical lane width is 12 feet. Reducing the lane width to 11 feet will create some speed reduction. 10-foot lanes is probably the minimum width and is the width that would reduce speed the most. However, 18-wheeler traffic could result in a risk of serious accidents if people don't pay attention. This needs to be weighed carefully. This option would require construction of curb extensions at each intersection. The curb extensions could cause drainage issues or require space for drainage to flow through the bump-out. Wytheville had this configuration on Main Street in the Downtown area. Some did not like the awkward look and pedestrian flow along the structures.

Option 3: Chicanes



Chicanes are used as a way to slow traffic down by adding curves to an otherwise straight street. This is the most effective way to slow down traffic. This option would remove some on-street parking and shift the flow of traffic from one side of the street to the other at varied points along the corridor. Extended curb bump-outs would be constructed to narrow the roadway and force drivers to navigate the corridor. At some locations there would be parking on the south side and at other locations it would be on the north. It may be possible to locate the chicanes in a way that would allow residents that do not have off-street parking to maintain their on-street spaces. It would also provide some protection from sideswipe accidents with parked cars.

Option 4: Raised Crosswalks and/or Intersections





Another approach is to elevate crosswalks to act as a speed hump. This can either be done at a crosswalk, or across an entire intersection. The longer configuration of the raised area covering the entire crosswalk is better for emergency vehicles which can navigate the longer surface change at a better speed. This approach would require each intersection to be reconstructed to provide a distinct bump as people drive through the corridor.

