Course Outline: Traffic Calming: Strategies that Work (PL-04)

COURSE OUTLINE

1. History, Regulatory Environment, Legal issues:
By the end of this section students will be able to:
   • Understand the regulatory and legal environment of traffic calming, particularly in California

The course will open with a discussion of participant interests and a short warm-up quiz. The class will consider some of the first successful traffic calming projects in abroad and in the US and identify important lessons learned from these projects. Students will be taught to recognize recent trends in California cities as well as seven types of innovations which have enhanced traffic calming capabilities.

An examination of recent cases and the ramifications of recent legislature on possible rulings will familiarize students with the questions of Legal Authority and Liability in implementation of traffic calming tools.

2. The Toolbox, Measured Results, Design Issues, Costs
By the end of this section students will be able to:
   • Recognize the variety of traffic calming measures available and their suitability or lack thereof for specific circumstances.
   • Apply the basics of geometric design of traffic calming measures.
   • Understand the value of aestheticism in determining public acceptance of traffic calming measures.

The Toolbox of traffic calming strategies will familiarize students with five types of Volume Control Measures, four categories of Speed Control Measures and their applicability according to specific traffic problems, budgets, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, emergency access and aesthetics. Participants will learn how to use the results and techniques of recent studies to evaluate the efficacy of specific traffic calming tools in increasing traffic safety, impacting crime, community life, noise pollution and property values. The section will provide a comparison of different design strategies and the geometry governing them.

Instructors will identify signing and landscaping options to accompany traffic calming measures. Costs of various devices and funding options will be outlined at the end of the section. This section will be followed by a class exercise.

3. Review of Illustrative Cases
By the end of this section students will be able to:
   • Appreciate the variety of factors which determine the success of specific approaches

Four in-depth analyses of traffic calming projects in widely varying urban/suburban settings will help students understand community response to traffic calming measures.
4. **Implementation Issues**  
   **By the end of this section students will be able to:**
   - Understand the diversity of constituencies involved in traffic calming projects
   - Recognize the limitations of warrants and priority systems
   - Reinforce the need for appropriate data to accurately evaluate and represent effectiveness of measures in the field

   Students will learn about the concerns common to community political bodies, residents, and businesses and how the media determines how those bodies perceive transportation improvements or changes. The three biggest process issues will be identified along with options for optimizing process efficiency.

   Examples of process and plan development in cities across the US will be used to illustrate the step-by-step implementation of a traffic calming project. Students will learn about the methods and reliability of data collection both pre and post project implementation. A team exercise developing a citywide traffic calming program and a neighborhood pilot program will reinforce the skills learned in the course thus far. A discussion of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program will follow.

5. **Use of Technology**  
   **By the end of this section students will be able to:**
   - Identify and understand the latest tools, trends, and related laws regarding technologies for enforcing traffic laws and technology-related traffic calming methods.

   Instructors will give an overview of the use of red-light running cameras for traffic enforcement, providing information about procedures, laws, costs and current practices. A short discussion of vehicle governors, photo radar and imbedded lights will follow.

6. **Real-Life Problem-Solving**  
   **By the end of this section students will be able to:**
   - Discuss and provide feedback regarding actual problems submitted by the other students.

   Students will be asked to identify any specific problems they face at the outset of the class and consulted during the breaks as to whether they are comfortable and desirous of input from other students and instructors during this section.

   Those who wish to share their issues will be requested to present their problems to the class.

7. **Conclusion & Resources**  
   **By the end of this section students will be able to:**
   - Understand the range of resources available to transportation professionals designing or implementing traffic calming projects

   Instructors will offer lists of publications, web sites, professional groups, etc and students will be encouraged to contribute their suggestions.