

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a traffic signal be a traffic calming measure?

No. Traffic signals must meet warrants in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and be approved for installation by VDOT.

Can the speed limit on my street be lowered to address speeding issues?

No. Speed limits are determined by engineering studies and must be approved by the VDOT Regional Traffic Engineer before posting. Studies have shown that artificially lowering speed limits does not have a significant impact on travel speeds.

Can traffic calming address cut-through traffic concerns?

The purpose of the Residential Traffic Calming Program is to address speeding. A separate process for cut-through traffic exists, and more information can be found on the VDOT's website:

www.virginiadot.org/programs/resources/web_faq's_cut_thru_program.pdf

Our developer was told to remove an All Way Stop sign by VDOT. Why?

All Way Stop (AWS) signs are typically installed when they are warranted by the MUTCD. If AWS signs have been improperly placed by a developer, then it must be removed as part of the street acceptance process. Studies have shown that improperly placing stop signs will actually increase crashes. All Way Stops can be installed as a traffic calming measure if they meet specific criteria.



For more information,
please contact DTCI at 703-737-8624

Loudoun County



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LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &
CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Informational Brochure

Residential Traffic Calming Program



Residential Traffic Calming Program

What is the traffic calming process?

What are the traffic calming measures?

The Residential Traffic Calming Program was developed to address vehicular speeding on local residential streets. This informational brochure was developed by the Loudoun County Department of Transportation & Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) to briefly describe the program.

What is traffic calming?

Traffic calming is the slowing of motorists on residential streets using physical and non-physical measures without restricting access. Because addressing speeding on one street will likely push the problem to adjacent streets, traffic calming is a community initiative, and will likely include several or more streets within a community.

Does my community qualify for the program?

A street must satisfy basic requirements to be eligible for the program:

- Publicly owned and maintained
- Classified as a local residential roadway
- 2-lane roadway
- 25 mph posted speed limit (or less)

If a street meets these basic requirements, then a request letter for traffic calming initiative can be made from the community association to their respective County District Supervisor. If a street does not belong to a community association, then a resident of that street may make the request. Once the request letter has been received, the traffic calming process will begin.

Traffic Study

After the request has been received by the DTCI, a traffic study will be conducted to determine the average daily traffic (ADT) and the average travel speeds on the street. If the study shows that average speeds are 30 mph or more, then the street qualifies for traffic calming measures. Based on the ADT, the street may be eligible for either physical or non-physical measures. Once eligibility has been established, a stakeholders meeting will occur.

Stakeholders Meeting

The stakeholders meeting comprises of members of the community, District Supervisors Office, DTCI, Sheriff's Office, and VDOT. In this meeting, the community concerns and the results of the traffic study will be discussed. The area of impact (AOI) for the neighborhood will also be determined. The AOI will define the limits for the petition process.

Petition Process

A petition form will be created by DTCI listing all of the residents within the AOI. To continue with the traffic calming process, signatures from at least 75% of the residents will need to be obtained. When the signatures are acquired, a traffic calming plan is developed.

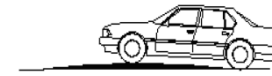
Traffic Calming Plan

The traffic calming plan will be developed by the stakeholders. Once the plan is developed, it is presented to the community. When the community support for the plan is received, the County Board of Supervisors and VDOT must approve the final plan and determine how it will be funded.

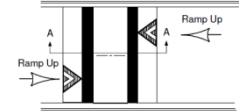
The traffic calming measures will be determined based on existing site and roadway conditions, community support and available funding. Not all measures are appropriate for all streets. A combination of physical and non-physical measures may be considered.

Typical Physical Measures

Speed Hump



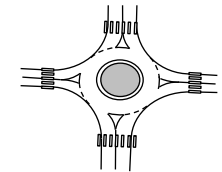
Raised Crosswalk



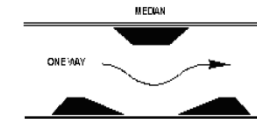
Choker



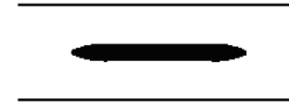
Mini Roundabout



Chicane



Raised Median Island



Typical Non-Physical Measures

- Additional pavement markings/ lane narrowing
- Additional warning signage
- All-Way-Stop-Control (requires additional criteria to be met)

