

Town of Stallings
Traffic Calming Evaluation Program



Town of Stallings
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TRAFFIC CALMING MISSION

The Mission of the Traffic Calming Program is to improve community safety and to preserve and enhance Town of Stallings neighborhood/subdivisions by working with residents to implement viable solutions to the negative impacts created by traffic on neighborhood/subdivision streets.

TRAFFIC CALMING PROCESS

The process consists of two phases. **Phase 1** includes the property owners' request and Town evaluation. **Phase 2** includes a property owner petition process and Town implementation of appropriate traffic calming measure(s). This policy is not retroactive for traffic calming devices prior to the adoption date.

Phase 1: Traffic Calming Process

Property Owner Request

A minimum of three owners of separate properties along a street or residential area must submit a written request to the Town to perform a traffic evaluation on neighborhood/subdivision roadways when the property owners have a traffic concern of vehicle speed that affects pedestrian safety or excessive volumes of through traffic in a residential neighborhood/subdivision. The Town Engineer will provide an official request form.

Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether or not the street qualifies for one or more of three traffic calming measures (speed limit reduction/multi-way stop/speed hump). The evaluation may take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete from the time the completed official request is received. The Town Engineer will conduct the evaluation based upon the following criteria:

1. Street must be classified as a two-lane, local residential street.
2. Street must not be a Major or Minor thoroughfare or proposed to be a thoroughfare in the future.
3. Street must have an average annual daily traffic volume that is greater than 250 vehicles per day (VPD) and less than 5,000 VPD.
4. Speed of at least 15% of the traffic on the street exceeds the posted speed limit by at least 5 mph.
5. Street must not operate at 40 mph or greater to reduce speeds to 25 mph. (25 mph is the lowest speed limit that will be posted).
6. Application must not have been denied or become void within last (12) months.

Once the evaluation is completed by the Town Engineer, the Town will notify the applicants in writing of the outcome. All six points in the evaluation criteria must be in the affirmative to qualify for Phase 2. If the street does not qualify, the specific reasons will be included in the notification. If the street qualifies, Phase 2 of the Traffic Calming process will begin.

Phase 2: Traffic Calming Process

Property Owner Petition

Phase 2 begins when the applicants receive from the Town written notice that the requested street has met the requirements for traffic calming. The qualifying street calming measure(s) are listed and an official petition form noting the measure(s) is provided to the applicants. At the same time, the Town notifies the applicants of the measures and provides them with a petition, the Town will mail a letter to the property owners listed on the petition. This letter is based on tax records and will be mailed to all property owners included on the petition notifying them that a traffic calming petition is being provided to the applicants. The letter will identify the type and location of the traffic calming device(s). The letter will give contact information for the applicants initiating the petition request. It is the applicants' responsibility to complete the petition by obtaining all necessary signatures and returning it to the Town Engineer. A qualifying petition must be returned to the Town within 90 calendar days of the start of Phase 2 or the petition becomes void. The installation of traffic calming measures on local residential streets requires the submittal of a petition meeting the following criteria:

1. Traffic Calming Petition must be on forms provided by the Town. The Town will only provide forms where the qualifying criteria under Phase 1 have been met.
2. The Traffic Calming Petition must have a minimum of 70% of the properties within the Town identified boundary/property listing identified under Phase 1 as signing in favor of the measures. All persons or entities identified as owners per tax records are required to sign in order to qualify a particular property. For example: if a husband and wife are listed as owners of a piece of property, both must sign the petition in order for the property to qualify. If a Home Owners Association (HOA) is listed as the owner of record, the President of the HOA must sign the petition as President. If a property is shown as being an LLC or Incorporated, the person(s) responsible for signing for these business entities must sign for the property to qualify. These signatures are required in order to continue with the process. Properties that have an address on a different street but border on the street affected must be included.
3. The Town Engineer will define the area that must be petitioned. Generally, the entire length of the street must be petitioned. The only exception is when a street changes character or is bisected by a major or minor thoroughfare.
4. All persons or entities listed as property owner(s) per the tax listings must sign the petition in order for that property to qualify.

If the subdivision has a HOA, the Town Engineer will notify a representative of the HOA that traffic calming device(s) are warranted per the evaluation methodology.

Once a completed petition is received, the Town will verify the signatures match the tax records and notify the applicants and identified signatories to the petition in writing upon completion of all qualifying applications. Property owners will have 10 calendar days from date of this letter to change their signature on the petition if they so desire. After this 10-calendar day period, no signature can be added or removed from a petition. Property owner must contact the Town Engineer in writing prior to the 10-day period for the change of signature to be valid. If the petition is returned to the Town with insufficient signatures, then the Town will notify signatories in writing to this fact.

Implementing for Traffic Calming Measures

The Town will be responsible for engineering and implementing traffic calming devices that are deemed warranted by the evaluation methodology. The Town will be responsible for replacing the speed hump when the street is resurfaced. If the subdivision has decorative sign supports, the HOA or the homeowners will be responsible for the cost of installation and maintenance of the decorative sign supports.

Only contractors approved by the Town will be authorized to perform installation and/or maintenance of speed hump(s) on Town maintained streets.

Speed hump locations will be determined by the Town Engineer and only the standard speed hump installation (See Town Design Standards) will be allowed on Town maintained streets.

The Town Council must approve any recommendation to install devices. The Town reserves the right to implement traffic calming devices as needed.

Three Types of Traffic Calming Measures

The Town may utilize up to three types of traffic calming measures when a residential street qualifies for traffic calming: speed limit reduction, multi-way stops and/or speed hump(s). Specific criteria must also be met for each measure to qualify for implementation. The criteria for each measure are listed below.

Speed Limit Reduction

The following criteria is used to determine if a street qualifies for speed limit reduction:

1. Street must be a local residential street.
2. Street must have at least 250 VPD and less than 5000 Vehicles per Day (VPD).
3. Street must not be posted at 40 mph or greater to reduce speeds to 25 MPH.
4. Petition must be signed by all property owners, as shown on the tax records, which represent a minimum of 70% of the individual properties on the street, as identified by the Town.

Multi-way Stops

Another common traffic calming measure is the installation of the 3-way or 4-way stop signs. The following criteria are used to determine if multi-way stops are feasible for any specific location:

1. Affected streets must be classified as a two-lane, local residential street. (Not a major Transportation Plan roadway or minor transportation plan roadway carrying more than 5,000 vehicles per day).
2. Through street must have a minimum volume of 250 VPD.
3. Speed of at least 15% of traffic must exceed posted speed limit by 5 mph.
4. The longest leg of a side street of the intersection being considered must exceed 400 feet in length.
5. The intersection being considered must be at least 300 feet from another stop condition.
6. Petition must be signed by all property owners, as shown on the tax records, which represent a minimum of 70% of the individual properties on the street, as identified by the Town.

Speed Humps

Speed humps are a speed control device generally constructed of asphalt and designed to cause a driver to slow to approximately 25 MPH. Greater speeds cause the driver to feel discomfort as the car hits the hump. Roads that have these devices typically see a 5% to 10% reduction in speeds. These devices are used on residential streets intended for use by local residents. They are not used on collector types of roads. Roads identified in the Charlotte Regional Thoroughfare Plan as an expressway and all major/minor transportation or minor roadways carrying more than 5,000 trips per day are not eligible for speed humps. The following shall be used to determine if a street qualifies for speed humps.

1. Street must be classified as a two-lane, local residential street.
2. Street must have at least 250 VPD and no more than 5,000 VPD.
3. Speed of at least 15% of traffic must exceed posted speed limit by 5 mph.
4. Petition must be signed by all the property owners, as shown on the tax records, which represent a minimum of 70% of the individual properties on the street, as identified by the Town.
5. Grade of the street shall not exceed 8% for vertical traffic calming measures.
6. Speed hump location shall be located at least 300 feet. from a curve with a horizontal radius of less than 300 feet.
7. Speed limit must be posted at 25 mph.
8. Street should not be a primary emergency services route (as determined by the Town Police Department).

Removal of a Traffic Calming Device

If a minimum of three property owners desire to have a traffic calming device removed, they must follow the same procedures outlined above for the installation of a device. Traffic calming devices cannot be petitioned for removal until at a minimum of one year after installation. If petition qualifies for the removal of the device there is no cost to the property owners or HOA. The Town Council must approve any recommendation to remove installed devices.

Adopted: Monday, July 11, 2016