



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Traffic Calming is the combination of physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for both motorized and non-motorized street users.

Traffic calming objectives include:

- Achieving speeds for motor vehicles that are reasonable for a neighborhood setting
- Increasing the safety and the perception of safety for non-motorized users of the street(s)
- Reducing collision frequency and severity
- Reducing the need for police enforcement

The Town of McAdenville continually strives to strengthen and protect its neighborhoods by improving the quality of life in residential areas. Traffic conditions on residential streets can greatly affect neighborhood livability. Speeding traffic in neighborhoods can create safety hazards on residential streets. When traffic problems become a daily occurrence, our sense of community and personal well-being are threatened.

The Town of McAdenville's *Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy* was developed to guide town staff and inform residents about the processes and procedures for implementing traffic calming on residential streets. Under this policy, the town staff will work with a Neighborhood Representative at their initiation, to identify traffic problems in their neighborhood and engineer appropriate solutions as approved by Town Council. A neighborhood representative must be a Home Owners Association (HOA) member and endorsed by the HOA by official letter; or in neighborhoods without an HOA, have the support of 5 other households (must provide names, address, and signatures of supporting household representatives).

This *Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy* incorporates **Education, Enforcement, and Engineering** into resolving traffic issues in neighborhoods. Residents can actively participate through neighborhood committees providing education and awareness of the issues and solutions available. Increased education, enforcement through spot speed checks, and increased police visibility effectively cause self-enforcement of speed regulations. Finally, where increased education and law enforcement have not reduced speeds, engineering measures (speed reduction through physical means) may be explored.

What Streets will be addressed under this Policy?

The control measures provided in this document are intended to be applied to local streets serving predominantly single family residential neighborhoods. Collector streets that run through neighborhood areas may also be considered for less restrictive traffic calming measures. Streets that are maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and developments with private streets are not eligible for traffic calming measures from the Town.

Neighborhood Awareness Campaign

Many people exceed the posted speed limit in their own neighborhoods. “Speeders” are not always nonresidents – most are neighbors and friends who are committed to safe, peaceful neighborhoods. Nevertheless speeding in residential areas is a bad habit, and it takes a unified effort to help break it. That’s why neighborhood activity is so important. Neighbors should remind neighbors to pay attention to their driving habits and of their mutual responsibility to the residents living in the community. HOA’s and residents can take it upon themselves to use several creative methods of reducing traffic problems in neighborhoods:

- Hold discussions at scheduled neighborhood meetings
- Write letters to local newspapers or neighborhood/community newsletters letting drivers know the threat posed by speeding on our sense of community and well-being
- Hold a “Slow-Down” block party to get people to think about their driving habits
- Groups of residents can walk the neighborhood with door hangers and talk to neighbors about neighborhood traffic safety
- Leave the cars at home. Encourage family and friends to ride bicycles and walk to destinations. This will reduce the traffic volume and speeding in the neighborhood. In addition, the presence of people (not just people in cars) along the street reminds drivers that they are in a neighborhood, not on an interstate highway.

These are just a few examples of ideas to assist residents in the education and enforcement of neighborhood traffic problems. It is the responsibility of the neighborhood representative to begin this process and to keep the Town staff apprised of the methods that are being employed

Procedure for Initiating a Neighborhood Traffic Study:

1. A neighborhood representative as defined above should contact the Town of McAdenville staff at 704-824-3190 or submit a request form to request Traffic Calming.
2. Town staff will meet with the Neighborhood Representative to discuss the process that will be followed. The area of concern will be identified and preliminary data will be collected by the Town including but not limited to: evaluation of traffic control signage and regulatory signage, increased police presence and use of driver feedback signage and/or radar devices. During the data collection and analysis period, it will be the responsibility of the representative to initiate a minimum of three tasks from the Neighborhood Awareness Campaign. This campaign is entirely the responsibility of the HOA or neighborhood group; no Town funds will be used.
3. Town staff will review traffic data and field information with the neighborhood group and determine if the following Traffic Calming Warrants are met in order for the street to qualify for consideration for traffic calming in the Town of McAdenville.

To qualify for traffic calming in the Town of McAdenville, the following warrants must be met:

- The street must be classified as a Town owned and maintained two-lane residential street.
 - The street cannot be designated as a primary emergency response route, transit route, or classified as a thoroughfare.
 - The street cannot be more than two travel lanes wide and be less than or equal to 35 feet.
 - The street's speed limit must be posted at 25 mph or less.
 - The street alignment cannot exceed 300 feet radius in curves.
 - The grade of the affected street or segments thereof cannot be greater than 8%.
 - If the road is in a subdivision, the subdivision must be at least 80% complete.
 - 15% of the traffic on the street exceeds the posted speed limit by more than 5 mph, as measured by Police Department traffic monitoring devices.
 - The Neighborhood Representative must provide proof of participation in the neighborhood Awareness Campaign (Minimum of three tasks).
4. If warrants for traffic calming measures are not met, traffic calming devices will not be considered under this policy. The street will not be eligible for re-evaluation for a period of 1 year.
5. **If warrants for traffic calming measures are met then a formal request for engineering measures must be initiated, accepted, and supported by the property owners on the affected street(s).**
- a. Installation of traffic calming devices must be requested through a petition signed in favor by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the owners of lots on the street(s) on which the device(s) are to be installed.
 - b. Owners of lots on any cul-de-sacs that intersect with the street(s) for which traffic calming devices are being requested must be included in the petition and in determining the required participation level.
 - c. Upon verification that a petition meets the required level of support as noted in parts a and b of this section, the Town staff shall develop a sketch plan indicating the type(s) and location(s) of the proposed traffic calming device(s) to be installed. This sketch plan shall be presented to the Town Council for its review and approval. The sketch plan must also be approved by the HOA for the affected residential neighborhood through a *Resolution* or *Letter of Support*. If the affected neighborhood does not have a HOA, the sketch plan must be approved by a simple majority of the owners of property on the affected streets through a *Petition* and *Letter* endorsing the sketch plan.
 - d. The development of a sketch plan shall include, but not limited to, consideration of the following placement guidelines:
 - Located at least 200 feet apart
 - Located such that a stopping sight distance of 200 feet or more a 25 MPH is provided
 - Located at least 200 feet from an intersection
 - Placed under street lighting for greater visibility
 - Located a minimum of 5-10 feet from a residential driveway

Approval of Installation

After all of the steps in **Section 5** have been satisfied, the Town Council shall make the final decision as to whether to approve the installation project. The Town Council reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to deny any request for installation of traffic calming devices on Town maintained streets.

All approved projects are subject to funding availability.

Who Pays for Control Measures

Installation of traffic calming devices is considered a street improvement and as such is eligible for special assessments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 160A-216(1). In addition to the petition requirements stated in **Section 5** of this policy, a petition for street improvements, in accordance with the special assessment statutes of North Carolina General Statutes § 160A Article 10, shall be required for all traffic mediation device installation projects estimated to cost more than \$2,000 (two thousand dollars). It shall be the policy of the Town to require property owners of the affected area to bear 50% of all actual costs over \$2,000 for the described and approved traffic mediation device(s) installation project and that such costs may be assessed in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes. The property owners of the affected area shall sign the assessment petition at the time the neighborhood canvass petition for the approval of the traffic calming device(s) is being presented. Sufficiency of the assessment petition shall be in accordance with requirements of North Carolina General Statute §160A Article 10. The Town Council may decide to waive the special assessment fee for neighborhood traffic calming proposals that demonstrate a significant need for the installation of a traffic calming device.

Removal of Traffic Calming Devices

A petition for the removal of traffic calming measures may be accepted if it alleges a public safety hazard or provided that the following conditions are met:

- The traffic calming measure to be removed must be in place or a minimum of a three year period.
- The new petition must include the same affected area canvassed in the original petition.
- Approval of seventy-five percent (75%) of the property owners in the original affected area is required for the Town Council to approve the requested removal.

Adopted by Town Council on September 13, 2016

James E. Robinette, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley Dellinger, Town Clerk