

Purpose of Traffic Calming

One of the most common concerns raised by residents is speeding on residential streets.

Traffic calming consists of physical changes, usually in the vertical or horizontal alignment, or cross section of the roadway, with the intent of altering drive behavior.

The goal of traffic calming is typically to reduce traffic volume, vehicle speed or both.

The 2006 direction finder survey results performed for the City of O'Fallon indicated that the flow of traffic and congestion management was ranked as the #1 highest priority amongst residents. This same category was the category that residents are least satisfied with according to the study.

Traffic calming when applied effectively can control the flow of traffic on residential streets.



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This brochure is designed by the City of O'Fallon to provide a brief overview of the City's Traffic Calming Policies. For a detailed listing of the City's Traffic Calming Policies, please contact Sandy Walter via e-mail at swalter@ofallon.mo.us.
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City of O'Fallon Traffic Calming Policy



Community Development

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City of O'Fallon Traffic Calming Policy

A group of citizens representing 10 or more separate households may request that the City of O'Fallon initiate a traffic calming policy in their neighborhood.

To begin the process, the citizens should submit a letter, which includes the signatures of 10 or more residents, to the City Engineer expressing their interest in improving traffic conditions in their neighborhood. The petitioner's letter should describe, as completely as possible, the location and details of the types of traffic problems perceived. This letter also must be sent to the City Councilperson representing the area.

Upon receiving the request, City Staff will verify the letter and then perform preliminary data collection and analysis, including a speed study to determine the speeds and volumes of motorists on the roadway of concern.

The speed study will assess the speed and overall traffic counts in the area. If the minimum requirements are met, City Staff will proceed with the traffic calming efforts.

Education

The first step will be efforts to educate motorists. Examples of education techniques may include:

- ◆ Dynamic message boards
- ◆ Indicators
- ◆ Signage
- ◆ Speed trailers



This education will continue for a period of time and will culminate with a second evaluation to determine if further intervention measures are required.

Enforcement

If Education is not successful in alleviating the problem, then the Police Department will be asked to conduct special enforcement interventions along with continued education techniques.

Ranking System

If the desired results have not been achieved by education and enforcement, the next step will be to rank the project using established criteria. The following criteria will be used to assess and assign a numerical score to each traffic calming request.

- ◆ Accidents
- ◆ Speed Violation Rate
- ◆ Overall Traffic Volume
- ◆ Increase in Traffic Volume
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Other Pedestrian Areas
- ◆ Driveway Density
- ◆ Alleys
- ◆ Other

The scores will be used to prioritize traffic calming requests. Those requests that rank the highest will be acted upon first as funds are available.

Neighborhood Meeting/Information Gathering

If the traffic study shows that measures may be implemented safely, a mail-back survey of all

affected residential dwelling units will then be conducted by the City. A proposal for traffic calming must be supported by 51 percent of the residential dwelling units responding to the questionnaire in order to be considered for implementation. A minimum of 50 percent of the responses to the mail-back survey are required.

Preliminary Design

For local street projects where there is generally an agreement regarding the problems and strategies, City Staff will prepare a preliminary design, which will analyze the impact on the street and the surrounding area.

During this phase, potential traffic calming measures and locations will be identified, construction cost estimates and the impact on emergency services will be evaluated.

In order for the preliminary design to be properly evaluated by the City and the affected residents, it will be reviewed by the City Administrator, the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, who will offer their input on the design. The final proposal will then be presented to the property owners and the City Council for final approval. The project will be scheduled based on available resources and the budget/funding as approved by the City Council.



City staff will conduct follow-up traffic studies on the project to determine the effects that the traffic calming has on the traffic. After two years, a process for removal of the device will be available should residents and the City agree that removal is in the area's best interest.