

# **Columbus Consolidated Government**

## **Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy**

### **I. Introduction:**

Columbus Council authorized the Traffic Engineering Division to establish and test a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy during the 2008 calendar year. The purpose of using this Policy is allow us to better utilize our limited resources of personnel, equipment and materials needed to identify traffic problems in residential neighborhoods and provide solutions. This process also encourages citizen input and participations in both defining the problem and developing the most applicable solution. Neighborhood Traffic Calming targets two undesirable problems in residential neighborhoods: Speeding and Cut Thru traffic.

So, at this point, we want to thank you for your interest in our new Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy. This Policy will evolve over time with your participation being the most important part of its final development. You will find herein the steps needed to participate in a Neighborhood Traffic Calming evaluation for your neighborhood.

### **II. What Does Neighborhood Traffic Calming Mean?**

The term “Neighborhood Traffic Calming” describes various methods or tools to influence or control the flow of vehicular traffic through residential neighborhoods. Neighborhood Traffic Calming is the implementation of measures including Driver Awareness/Education, Enforcement, Structural improvements or any combination of these elements, to bring about a favorable change in the behavior of the motorists traveling along a particular section of residential streets.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming is not intended to be applied to all streets especially those designed to move traffic from one area of our community to another. Or, those residential streets that are very short in length or have low traffic volumes. Consequently, we must set some limits to insure the best use of our resources. Streets that have the following characteristics will not be evaluated:

1. Streets classified as Expressways, Arterials or Collectors.
2. Streets having lengths of 750 feet or less.
3. Streets having traffic volumes of 500 vehicles per day or less.
4. Streets within Industrial Parks or Commercial subdivisions.
5. Streets that are Privately owned.

### **III. The Initial Interest Petition and Map (Citizen Responsibility):**

**Step 1** - After receiving a Citizen Inquiry about Speeding or Cut Thru traffic, our office will send the Citizen an “Initial Interest Petition” and a “Map” of the affected area. The Map will define the area to obtain petition signatures. Typically, the affected Map area will include the problem street and/or neighborhood and those adjacent to it. For example, Traffic Calming would not be successful if it only moves the problem from one street or neighborhood to the adjacent street or neighborhood.

**Step 2** - The Citizen will then be responsible for obtaining the Initial Interest Petition signatures of **20% of the households** within the Map area. The circulation of the Petition creates participation of neighbors and brings awareness to the problems being experienced in the neighborhood. The heightened awareness creates an immediate benefit in slowing traffic speeds. In the case of speeding, we find that most of the speeders live within the affected neighborhoods.

**Step 3** – The Citizen will return the Initial Interest Petition with the required percentage of household signatures. Our office will verify the signatures are within the Map area and contained 20%. You are requested to return the petition within 30 days of receipt for study consideration.

#### **IV. Conduct the Study (City Responsibility):**

A Traffic Study will be scheduled as soon as possible from the date the petition is received and verified. Traffic data will typically be collected for a period of three to five weekdays unless circumstances dictate a study to be extended over a weekend.

All Traffic Studies will be scheduled on a “First In / First Out” basis. The City reserves the right to adjust this schedule if circumstances warrant. The petitioner will be notified of the results of the Traffic Study.

#### **V. What Happens After the Study?**

**Problem – No:** If we do not find a Speeding or Cut Thru problem, the Citizen will be notified and the request will be closed out.

**Problem – Yes:** If a problem is found, the Traffic Engineering Division along with assistance from Public Safety will develop a recommendation to implement a Traffic Calming measure that is most applicable to the particular traffic problem. These measures may range from Neighborhoods awareness signs, Speed Trailers posting motorists speeds, Radar Enforcement or a variety of geometric changes such as Speed Tables, Roundabouts, Chokers, Diverters, Cul-de-sacs, etc.

#### **VI. Traffic Calming Implementation (City + Citizens):**

**Step 1** – The Traffic Engineering Division will make a recommendation for Traffic Calming measures. A Public Meeting with the neighborhood will be schedule to explain the results of the Traffic Study and our recommendation.

**Step 2** – At the Public Meeting, the Petitioner will be given a second petition entitled “Petition to Install Traffic Calming Measures. The purpose of this Petition is to insure that the neighborhood is in agreement for the implementation of Traffic Calming Measures. The City has already expended funds to install Traffic Calming Measures to only have to remove them within a few months for lack of neighborhood support.

**Step 3** – The Petitioner will have 30 days to obtain signatures of **65% of the Property Owner**, not tenants, in support of the improvements in order for the City to proceed with the implementation. The signed petition will be returned to the Traffic Engineering Division for verification.

**VII. How Do We Pay for It?**

The funding for Neighborhood Traffic Calming is limited and established each budget year by the action of our City Council. With funding, your Neighborhood's Traffic Calming project will be implemented. The time frame will depend upon its complexity. Projects requiring only signage and markings will be installed immediately. Projects requiring extensive construction may require the City to bid the construction work by private contractors requiring three to six months. Approximately six months after the Traffic Calming project is completed, the Traffic Engineering Division will conduct a follow up Speed/Volume Study to measure the success of each project.

If funding is not available, the project may be rejected or placed on hold until such time as funding becomes available.

**VIII. Attachments:**

You will find attached a summary sheet of various Traffic Calming Measures as information.