

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Procedure

The City of Portsmouth prioritizes convenient, safe and accessible streets and roadways for all transportation users. As traffic safety issues arise, the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program provides a mechanism for neighborhood groups to work with the City. It is intended to ensure that all neighborhood stakeholders are provided the opportunity to be involved. The following outline details the steps involved in participating in the program and the levels of traffic calming that can be implemented to address neighborhood-level traffic issues.

Phase I

Step One

Application

Residents with concerns about neighborhood traffic issues should submit an Application for Traffic Calming Measures form to the City Parking and Transportation Engineer. City staff will conduct a brief preliminary assessment to determine if the location is appropriate for traffic calming measures. If the request can be handled with an administrative resolution, the City's Department of Public Works will determine and implement the appropriate traffic control. If a larger public engagement process is determined to be the appropriate process the application form submitted will start the process. The form requires the applicant to outline the existing traffic issues, a proposed study area and submit a citizen petition. Staff will confirm that the proposed study area encompasses the impacted properties and the citizen petition shall contain signatures from greater than 50% of the properties within the finalized study area.

- The Parking and Transportation Engineer will update the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTS) at their monthly meeting on applications that have been received.

Step Two

Neighborhood Traffic Monitoring

Neighborhood speed monitoring is an important step in the educational and enforcement aspects of the traffic calming program. The information serves as a good “snap shot” of how drivers are behaving as they travel through the neighborhood. Information may be collected on vehicle speeds and volumes, accident history, pedestrian and bicycle volumes, sidewalks and the built environment to determine what factors are influencing traffic within the area.

Step Three

Staff Assessment

Based on the assessment and traffic monitoring, Staff will determine what level of traffic calming measures are appropriate. Traffic calming measures have advantages and disadvantages and streets identified for potential traffic calming projects are prioritized based on speed, collision history, number of nearby pedestrian generators, geographical representation and partnership opportunities, volume and available funding.

Phase II

Traffic calming measures that may be employed include both Community-oriented (Non-infrastructure) and Physical methods.

Level I - Community Oriented Traffic Calming

The following measures focus on bringing the community together to raise awareness and educate drivers that they are in a neighborhood where there is a strong desire for them to drive responsibly. Level I measures may include the following:

- Neighborhood traffic education
- Neighborhood pledge program
- Neighborhood signs
- Speed display unit
- Speed watch/warning letters
- Neighborhood maintenance
- Targeted police enforcement
- Crosswalk improvements
- Striping narrow lanes
- Restricted movement signing
- Other regulatory signing

Level II - Physical Traffic Calming Measures

The following physical traffic calming devices, traffic circles, chicanes, and speed humps, as appropriate based on the Portsmouth Complete Streets Guidelines. Level II measures may include the following:

- Gateway Treatments
- Median island
- Curb extension
- Chicane
- Choker
- Traffic circle
- Speed hump
- Speed cushion
- Raised crosswalk
- Raised intersection
- Parking Management

Staff will recommend traffic calming measures as the final step in the process to the PTS Committee and the Committee will vote to recommend which measures or program of measures should be implemented.

Phase III

Funding and implementation

- Funding and implementation will be considered in the program that is recommended and may be from the existing City budget or become a Capital Improvement Plan request.
- Demo Projects may be implemented as practicable for neighborhood leadership.

Portsmouth Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Framework

