

What is Traffic Calming?

Excessive speeding, pedestrian safety, and cut-through traffic are common concerns in residential neighborhoods. In order to maintain a pleasant living environment and ensure the safety of children and residents, measures may be taken to make speeding more difficult and cutting-through less attractive while preserving street access. The implementation of such measures is known as **Traffic Calming**.



Roundabout

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

-Institute of Transportation Engineers



Raised Crosswalk

City of Charleston



*Department of Traffic and Transportation
180 Lockwood Drive Extension (Room 234)
Charleston, South Carolina 29403*

www.charlestoncity.info

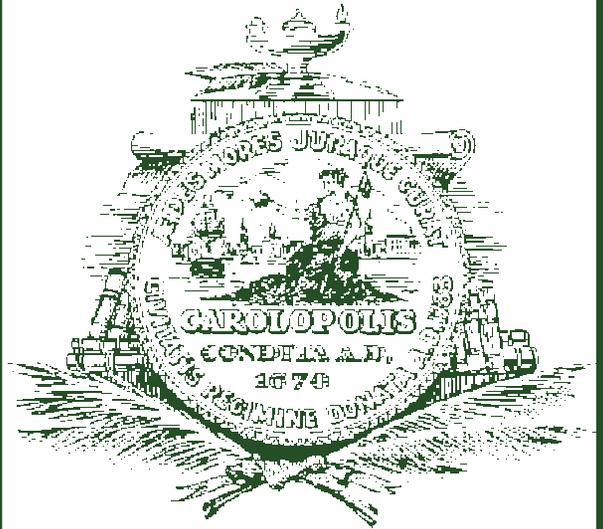


An informational brochure on moderating vehicle speed in residential areas

Charleston, South Carolina

City of Charleston

Traffic Calming Program



*Department of
Traffic and Transportation*

Traffic Calming Measures and Devices

There are many types of traffic calming measures and devices that can be implemented through the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Each measure and device has advantages and disadvantages and may vary in effectiveness depending on the characteristics of your street. They include:

- ◆ Speed Humps
- ◆ Traffic Circles
- ◆ Raised Crosswalks
- ◆ Roundabouts
- ◆ Speed Monitoring Devices
- ◆ Traffic Diverters
- ◆ Medians or Traffic Islands



The Department of Traffic and Transportation determines the best traffic calming solution after careful review of street conditions and taking into account safety factors such as curves.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

In 1999, the City of Charleston's Department of Traffic and Transportation developed the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program.



Speed Reader and Speed Hump sign

Program Objectives

- ◆ Improve neighborhood livability by reducing the negative impact of vehicular traffic on residential streets.
- ◆ Promote safe and pleasant conditions for non-motorized street users (i.e. pedestrians, children, bicyclists) while maintaining the safe movement of local residential vehicular traffic.
- ◆ Encourage citizen involvement in all phases of neighborhood traffic management activities.
- ◆ Prioritize traffic calming projects through efficient use of City resources.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program assists the City and its neighborhoods by improving the overall safety and quality of life for residents and in some cases restoring the residential character of neighborhoods.

To qualify for traffic calming, your street must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Be a local, residential street
- ◆ Have a speed limit of 30 MPH or less
- ◆ Be entirely within the City Limits of Charleston
- ◆ Have speeds higher than posted limits
- ◆ Have a minimum Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 350 vehicles.

If you believe your street meets the minimum requirements and should be considered for traffic calming, you may mail or fax a written request for consideration to:

Department of Traffic and Transportation
180 Lockwood Drive
Charleston, SC 29403
Fax: (843)722-5956



You will be contacted upon the receipt of your written or faxed request.