

TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM



What is Traffic Calming?

Traffic Calming is a combination of design and safety measures to reduce unsafe behaviors and promote pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist safety.

There are many types of traffic calming devices and measures that can be used with our Traffic Calming Program.

Traffic Calming presents an opportunity to meet the City's complete streets goals in residential neighborhoods, along commercial corridors, and in urban areas.

The effectiveness of each device varies depending on your street design.

"Cities can achieve a reduction in traffic speeds using a variety of traffic calming techniques. While certain speed controls alter the configuration of a roadway, others change how people psychologically perceive and respond to a street."

-Speed Reduction Mechanism, NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials)

TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES



SPEED HUMPS



RAISED CROSSWALKS



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAGE



SPEED STUDY



SPEED MONITORING DEVICES



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Program Objectives

- Encourage citizen involvement in all phases of neighborhood traffic management activities.
- Enhance neighborhood livability by improving the equitable distribution of transit mode use on all streets.
- Close the gap between safety and accessibility by promoting pedestrians and cyclists in the public right-of-way while reducing the negative impacts of vehicular traffic.
- Improve the overall safety and quality of life for residents in Charleston.

1 Ensure your area is eligible for traffic calming, and request a traffic calming study.

To be eligible for traffic calming, the street must be a local residential street with at least 90% of the properties zoned residential, the speed limit must be 25 mph or less, and the average daily traffic (ADT) must be at least 350 vehicles.

If eligible, traffic calming projects can be requested by individuals or neighborhood associations, and requests should be submitted to the Department of Traffic & Transportation in writing (email or letter). Following a traffic calming request, the Department of Traffic & Transportation will determine the traffic calming project area limits.

2 Fill out a petition for traffic calming device(s).

The next step is to submit a petition signed by 75% (one adult resident per household) of the residents in the traffic calming project area (abandoned properties and properties for sale are not counted). Once the petition is verified, the Department of Traffic & Transportation will conduct a speed and volume study to see if the street(s) meet the requirements for traffic calming.

3 Receive results from the traffic calming study and review.

Once the study has been complete, and if the street(s) meet the requirements for traffic calming, the Department of Traffic & Transportation will present the results to the Charleston City Council Traffic & Transportation committee for approval.

4 Receive approval from City Council.

After approval by City Council, the Department of Traffic & Transportation will finalize device location and installation timeline.

5 Proceed with installation of traffic calming device.

After installation, the Department of Traffic & Transportation will conduct follow-up evaluation of each project.