

TRAFFIC-CALMING PROGRAM



DUBLIN'S NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC-CALMING PROGRAM

Dublin's Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program is a proactive, community-based program designed to enhance the quality of life in Dublin neighborhoods. It is a common goal among City leaders and residents to calm traffic on local streets where speeding, accidents or non-local traffic are concerns, providing a safer environment for motorists, pedestrians and children.

Through this program residents will partner with the City of Dublin to evaluate traffic concerns in their neighborhood. While some areas in Dublin are truly in need of traffic calming, others can be addressed with solutions outside the scope of this program.

This booklet of information will help residents determine whether a street qualifies for the City's Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program and navigate them through the process of establishing traffic calming in their neighborhood.

Should residents have further questions throughout this process or like additional information, contact the Division of Engineering at 614.410.4600.

TIMEFRAME

Depending on the situation and level of community involvement, it could take six months to two years to develop and implement a traffic-calming plan.



STAGE ONE

EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT

Pre Traffic-Calming Solutions

There are several options residents can pursue to reduce speeding in their neighborhood before requesting traffic calming. Residents can request the following speed-reduction options for their neighborhood by calling the Police Traffic Enforcement Unit at 614.410.4807.

Speed-Monitoring Trailers

Residents can request the use of automated speed-monitoring trailers, which display to drivers their "actual" speed to encourage their compliance with speed limits. The trailers monitor traffic patterns in a given neighborhood for several days at a time. The units record the number of vehicles and speed of each vehicle. This data is used to identify traffic related problems.



Neighborhood Speed Watch

Residents who live in neighborhoods perceived to have a speeding problem are eligible to participate in this educational program. The program requires that at least two adults from the association attend a radar training session with a police instructor. Upon completion of the program, residents are eligible to borrow radar equipment to use in their neighborhoods. Reminder notices regarding speed limits are sent to motorists identified as violators. The notices are not citations, but reminders to obey the posted speed limit and the community's concern for safety.

Speed Surveys

Dublin's speed-measuring device called the StealthStat monitors traffic volume, average speed, high speeds and low speeds of motorists. The StealthStat collects, sorts and analyzes data using a radar unit and computer. The results are used to help the Police Department prioritize enforcement and other responsive efforts, as well as to educate the public.

Enforcement

After a traffic analysis is completed, the Police Department may respond with increased enforcement to address the issue.

Residents should be specific regarding the days and times of traffic concerns to help determine when enforcement is needed.

If the above tactics have been pursued and the Division of Engineering has determined these initiatives to be ineffective, staff will advise the residents to proceed with the Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program.



Getting Started

Before beginning this process the City of Dublin would like to inform residents that the Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program requires a great deal of commitment. Active citizen participation is key to the success of all traffic-calming projects. Experience in other cities has

shown that traffic-calming projects installed without strong neighborhood participation are frequently unsuccessful, requiring the removal of some or all measures. This involvement instills a sense of ownership in the project once traffic-calming measures are installed. Qualifying for Dublin's Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program requires a multi-step process that may involve evening meetings and will require petitioning door-to-door. Additionally, the street being considered must meet the following pre-qualifications to be eligible for this program:

- The street must have a posted speed of 25 mph or less
- The street must be classified as a local or collector
- The street must have a right-of-way that is 60 feet or less
- The street must have a standard curb and gutter, and/or all drainage and safety features need to be current with City design criteria
- The street must be at least 1,000 feet in length
- The street cannot be a cul-de-sac
- The street cannot be a loop street within a subdivision
- The street cannot be along a COTA bus route
- The street cannot be used as a critical emergency response route or contain a fire/EMS station

The Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program only applies to existing streets. It does not apply to future roads or new subdivision streets under construction or subdivision streets that could be extended in the future.

The Process

Once the Division of Engineering advises the residents to proceed with the Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program, a neighborhood representative must submit a letter to the Division of Engineering requesting a street be evaluated for traffic calming and the overall affected area be defined. Upon receipt of this request, the Division of Engineering will send a map defining the affected area. The affected area consists of streets and/or cul-de-sacs whose primary access is directly off the affected street. This includes households located on the affected street(s) and any households located on cul-de-sacs attached to the affected street(s).

After reviewing this information and pursuing other solutions with the Police Department, residents may want to take the first step to begin the traffic-calming process. Fulfillment of each step must be in place before proceeding to the next step.



STAGE TWO

ENGINEERING/STUDY PROCESS

Step One – Petition Request

Residents requesting traffic-calming measures in their neighborhood will need to circulate a petition to be signed by residents in the affected area and submit it to the Division of Engineering.

- In order for the request to proceed, the petition must contain signatures from 67 percent of the households located in the affected area and 90 percent of the households on the affected street.

Step Two – Petition Approval

Once the Division of Engineering receives this petition it will then be reviewed by staff to ensure its accuracy.

- Once staff verifies the petition, the request for a traffic-calming study is underway. The Division of Engineering will determine the traffic-calming study's priority for funding. As funding becomes available through the City's Capital Improvement Program or City Council directive the request will move forward with a comprehensive traffic study.
- If staff does not approve the petition, for lack of necessary signatures or other reasons, it will be sent back with an explanation of why it was not approved.

Step Three – Comprehensive Traffic Study Phase One

The Division of Engineering will conduct a comprehensive traffic study for the affected area to determine if the street(s) meets the following criteria:

- Has a daily volume of 2,000 or more vehicles for collector streets, and 1,000 or more vehicles for local streets.
- The 85th percentile speed (the speed below which 85 percent of vehicles travel) must be 32 mph or more.
- The crash severity ratio must be above the three-year, citywide ratio of 0.29.
- The percent of non-local traffic volumes must be more than 20 percent.

This phase of the study will determine whether traffic calming is recommended. It will also determine if any neighborhood adjacent streets will be affected by traffic-calming measures on the affected street. If no adverse impact to the adjacent streets is found then residents can proceed to Stage Three. If there is an adverse impact, then residents will proceed to Phase Two of Step Three.

Phase Two

This phase of the study determines the impact to adjacent neighborhood streets and the need for in-depth analysis and collaborative neighborhood involvement. Once this phase has been completed residents can proceed to Phase Three of the Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program.

STAGE THREE

ENGINEERING/OPTIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

Step One – Selecting the Appropriate Traffic-Calming Measure

The Division of Engineering will recommend a plan of traffic-calming options that will best suit the neighborhood's needs.

- Affected residents will have input on which traffic-calming measure(s) they would like to have installed in their neighborhood.
- Although staff will present final recommendations to the affected neighborhood, they will certainly take into consideration the measure(s) suggested by residents in the affected area.

Step Two – Neighborhood Consensus

Residents in the affected area will need to sign a petition agreeing on which traffic-calming measure(s) they would like installed in their neighborhood. The petition must contain one signature per household for a total of 90 percent of households on the affected street(s) and signatures from 67 percent of those in the affected area.

Step Three – Traffic Calming Installation

Once the Division of Engineering has received the necessary signatures, agreeing on the overall Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program, staff will seek funding for the project through the Capital

Improvement Program or a special request to City Council.

Step Four – Post Evaluation

After the traffic-calming measure(s) has been installed the Division of Engineering will conduct a follow-up study to ensure that it is effective.



OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Resident's Responsibilities

- 1) Submit a letter requesting traffic calming.
- 2) Circulate petition, obtaining signatures from 90 percent of residents on the affected street(s) and 67 percent of those in the affected area to initiate a traffic-calming study.
- 3) Gain neighborhood consensus on which traffic calming measure(s) to use. Must obtain signatures from 90 percent of the residents on the affected street(s) and 67 percent of those in the affected area.

City's Responsibilities

- 1) Define affected area for applicant's neighborhood.
- 2) Verify petition for accuracy and necessary signatures.
- 3) Conduct comprehensive traffic-calming study.
- 4) Recommend Neighborhood Traffic-Calming Program (if study determines necessary).
- 5) Make final recommendation for appropriate traffic-calming measure(s).
- 6) Seek funding for program through the Capital Improvement Program or a special request to City Council.
- 7) Install traffic-calming measure(s).
- 8) Evaluate effectiveness

