



TRAFFIC CALMING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In general, many people drive above posted speed limits, and this trend appears to be on the rise. A tendency for drivers to speed may be attributed to our fast paced life styles. However, when this trend spreads to our local residential streets, the impact on neighborhoods can be significant. Lindon City is committed to improving the quality of life in neighborhoods by actively joining with the residents in a partnership to devise creative and workable ways to preserve peaceful streets, particularly on local residential streets. Below are some answers to questions regarding traffic calming measures which may be used in particular situations.

Speeding seems to be a particular problem in my residential neighborhood. What can I do? The City has established a “Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming” program to allow residents to request a study to determine whether traffic calming measures in their neighborhoods would be reasonable. Further information about the Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming program can be obtained from the Community Development Office, 785-7687, or by visiting the City website at www.lindoncity.org

What is the purpose of traffic calming measures? Traffic calming encourages drivers to operate with consideration for the safety of other individuals using the roadway, whether other vehicles, pedestrians or bicycles. Traffic calming can help alleviate undesirable conditions, such as speeding, which may be impacting the neighborhood.

What elements are considered during the traffic calming study process? Various criteria must be met to establish a need for traffic calming measure in any particular location. Items to be considered include traffic speed and volume, cut through traffic, noise, crime, street design and a variety of other possible impacts. Engineers have established specific criteria for each element of the study which allows the City to methodically determine appropriate locations for traffic calming measures.

What type of traffic calming measures are available? A variety of methods to calm traffic is available depending on specific circumstances in a particular location. Both active and passive traffic calming measures can be used in appropriate situations. Active traffic calming measures include methods such as speed humps, which actively force drivers to slow their speed. Passive measures include methods such as narrow striping for lanes or chokers, which do not actively force drivers to slow their speed, but create a perception of a narrower roadway width which encourages slower speeds. Only passive traffic calming measures are allowed on established emergency response routes, regardless of the street designation.

Who decides whether traffic calming measures are appropriate in any given location? The City Engineer conducts the traffic calming study, and makes a determination as to whether traffic calming measures would be appropriate in any given location. Following completion of the study, the Engineer will make a recommendation to the City Council as to what, if any, traffic calming measures would be appropriate based on the criteria established in the Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming program. The City Council makes the final decision regarding implementation of traffic calming measures.

How do I request a study in my neighborhood? Request for a Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming study must be submitted in writing at the City Center. Written requests should include signatures of 80% of the residents living in the study area.

What criteria must be met in order to qualify for traffic calming measures? Once the project is initiated, the Engineer will analyze the study area and produce a numerical score based on the criteria established for the program. Criteria used to establish numerical score initially include traffic speed and volume. Further study may also include the location of elementary schools in the study area, as well as pedestrian or bicycle pathways in the area. Following completion of the study, the Engineer will make recommendations as to what type, if any, of traffic calming measures would be appropriate to the location. Details regarding the scoring mechanism are available in the Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming Program guide, available at the City Center or on the City website. Click on the Public Works page, then on the Citizen Initiated Traffic Calming Study link.

Will I be notified of the status of a study which may be conducted in my neighborhood? Yes. Educational neighborhood meetings will be held with residents in any study area. Involvement and input from area residents is encouraged during the study process. Meetings also help residents better understand the criteria used in the study, as well as viable options for traffic calming in their neighborhood.

How are approved traffic calming measures paid for? Three options are available to fund traffic calming projects. Option 1 allows residents to pay for the cost of installation of approved traffic calming measure which are a low priority based on the points earned in the study. Option 2 specifies that funding will be shared by Lindon City and residents in the study area. This option requires financial participation of up to 45% of the cost of improvements to be paid by residents. Option 3 calls for full funding of identified high priority projects by the City. Time and budget considerations for this option are left to the discretion of the City Council.

Residents should keep in mind that they, as drivers, are the most important element in keeping streets safe. Remember to drive in other neighborhoods at the same speed you hope drivers will travel through your neighborhood. Our streets are built to move traffic through the community, but safe streets also allow other opportunities for residents walking or on bicycles to interact with their neighbors. Let's all do our part to drive with courtesy and keep the streets in Lindon safe by obeying posted speed limits!