



City of Turlock
Traffic Calming Program

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Introduction

Definitions

“**Traffic Calming**” is a combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for residents, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

“**Traffic Calming Device**” is a specific tool used to calm traffic, such as speed hump, speed bump, or speed table, a posted sign or legend, or modification to the roadway encouraging drivers to slow down. These are just a few of the available traffic calming tools.

“**Traffic Calming Program**” identifies available traffic calming tools, specifies qualifying criteria, and establishes a systematic process for applying for, approving, and installing traffic calming solutions.

Purpose

The purpose of the Traffic Calming Program is to improve the safety, livability, and quality of life within residential neighborhoods through the use of traffic calming tools. This program shall:

- 1) Define a process for evaluating and reporting traffic-related concerns within residential neighborhoods
- 2) Identify problem characteristics and potential solutions,
- 3) Identify the costs of each solution as well as funding sources,
- 4) Specify the review and approval process for implementation,
- 5) Provide contact information for additional questions or concerns

Goals and Objectives

The City of Turlock continuously strives to promote overall safety and increase the quality of life for each resident. Vehicles traveling at excessive speeds, or commuter traffic inappropriately using residential streets as a shortcut to other collector and arterial streets, adversely affects public safety and the general quality of life for residents.

This Program seeks to provide a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement tools to minimize these adverse effects and provide a singular process,

which can be used by both City staff and residents alike, to formally address these concerns.

Each neighborhood has unique needs and concerns that must be reviewed and considered to ensure that the appropriate solution is applied. In addition to neighborhood concerns the City must recognize the needs of other users, such as the City's emergency services, which can be negatively impacted by some traffic calming solutions when trying to respond quickly to an emergency call. Final solutions must balance the needs of emergency responders against the needs of the residential community to calm traffic.

The specific objectives are:

- 1) Reduce excessive vehicle speeds in residential neighborhoods
- 2) Reduce the volume of commuter traffic inappropriately using residential streets as a shortcut to other collector or arterial streets
- 3) Promote conditions that encourage walkable neighborhoods
- 4) Reduce potential for collisions
- 5) Encourage citizen and neighborhood involvement

Policy Statements

- 1) In many cases complaints related only to vehicle speeds can be adequately addressed solely with additional enforcement. As such, the permanent installation of a device will only be recommended when regular enforcement is deemed to be insufficient.
- 2) Requests will progress through a multi-step process, beginning with enforcement and education before advancing to larger, more aggressive and expensive solutions. This ensures that a cost-effective solution is applied and doesn't unnecessarily impact the local traffic.
- 3) **Minimum Qualifying Criteria:** Since the purpose of the Program is to address issues on local streets within residential neighborhoods, a list of minimum qualifying criteria has been developed to ensure that requests are limited only to those sections of street for which traffic calming devices are intended.
- 4) **Design of Traffic Calming Devices:**
 - a) All devices will be designed and installed utilizing sound engineering practices.

- b) Each device listed within this program has been pre-approved for use on city streets by the City Engineer. Requests for devices not listed in this Program will require a separate review and approval.
 - c) Devices shall comply with the latest edition of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).
 - d) Minimum qualifying criteria will be established for each device.
 - e) Access for pedestrian and bicyclists shall be maintained.
 - f) Accommodation will be made for emergency vehicles.
- 5) **Neighborhood Support:** The installation of any device will require strong neighborhood support from residents living on, or adjacent to, the affected street segments. In addition, neighbors beyond this section of street will be notified prior to the approval of any application to provide them the opportunity express their support or concerns.
- 6) **On-Street Parking:** Depending on the specific location of installation, the removal of some on-street parking spaces may be required.
- 7) **Costs/Fees:** The applicant will be responsible for paying all costs to the City associated with the project. Typical project costs include: traffic studies, materials & labor, project design & inspection, estimated lifetime maintenance costs, refundable security deposit, and public noticing. These costs will be outlined in a letter from the City at the end of Step #2. The applicant may, at their sole discretion, collect a pro-rated portion of the costs from various neighbors if desired, but the City will not bill other neighbors on the applicant's behalf.
- 8) **Maintenance:** The City shall be responsible to maintain these devices upon successful installation for the life of the device(s).
- 9) **Appeals:** If the Engineering Division does not approve an application, then the applicant can, within (30) days, appeal that decision to the City Manager for review. The decision of the City Manager shall be final.
- 10) **Denials:** In the event that a request for installation is denied, either by the Engineering Division or upon appeal to the City Manager, a similar request at the same location will not be considered for (2) years from the original application date.
- 11) **Removal:** If after (12) months of installation at least 75% of property owners want the traffic calming device removed, then they must submit a petition to the Engineering Division for consideration.

Minimum Qualifying Criteria

Traffic calming works best when it is applied to specific types of streets in specific situations. Applying traffic calming devices inappropriately can result in adverse effects to the general traveling public, including an increase in driver frustration, reduced response times from emergency services, and increased wear and tear on vehicles. The following list of primary, qualifying criteria ensures that traffic calming solutions are limited only to streets addressing residential neighborhood concerns.

When the applicant submits an application they will specify a section of street for the addition of traffic calming devices. That section of street must:

- 1) Have a functional classification of local (residential) street,
- 2) Have an existing speed limit of 25 mph,
- 3) Be defined by the intersection of a cross-street on either end (except for a cul-de-sac which will only have a cross-street on one end),
- 4) Be at least 500' in length (not total length of street, just the section),
- 5) Have an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of at least 800 vehicles.

In addition to the primary criteria, if the request is related to speeding, then at least 5% of the vehicles on an average day must travel faster than 30 m.p.h.

In addition to the primary criteria, if the request is related to increased volume, then at least 10% of the vehicles on an average day must be thru traffic, or 20% of vehicles within a 1-hour peak period, whichever is less.

Traffic Calming Request Process

Step No. 1: Complete a Traffic Calming Request Form

- 1) The applicant shall complete a *Traffic Calming Request Form* and submit it to the Turlock Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit. This submission shall serve to notify the Traffic Safety Unit of the on-site issues and allow for targeted enforcement prior to physical changes within the roadway.
- 2) A police officer will evaluate the request and based on availability of resources may provide one or more short-term solutions, such as:
 - a) targeted enforcement,
 - b) making contact with a specific, known offender,
 - c) temporarily setting up a radar speed trailer, or
 - d) sampling speed and volume data through a traffic data collector; or
 - e) other enforcement strategy deemed appropriate for that situation.

Please note that any information gathered through the course of these efforts is a public record and available to any member of the public upon filing a request.

- 3) If after a continuous, targeted enforcement period of at least 30 days the Traffic Safety Unit notes that the originally reported problems persist, they may sign the *Traffic Calming Request Form* acknowledging their efforts and forward the form, along with any and all relevant supporting data, to the Engineering Division.
- 4) In the event that enforcement efforts are deemed successful the Traffic Safety Unit may elect to not sign/certify that the originally reported problems persist. If so, they shall contact the applicant to advise them accordingly and the applicant would not be permitted to continue to the next step.

Step No. 2: Initiate Traffic Calming Study

- 1) The Engineering Division shall notify the applicant upon receiving a Traffic Calming Request Form from the Traffic Safety Unit, as well as confirm that the next step in the process would be the completion of a traffic calming study.
- 2) The applicant must submit a \$654.00* deposit for City staff to conduct the necessary studies and on-site evaluations. Charges will be billed at the full direct and indirect rates for the staff conducting the studies. Charges exceeding this deposit will be billed to the applicant; charges less than the deposit will result in the difference returned back to the applicant.
- 3) Payment may be submitted by mail or in-person at City of Turlock, Engineering Division, 156 S. Broadway, Suite 150, Turlock, CA 95380.
- 4) Within (30) days of receipt of the application fee the Engineering Division shall:
 - a) Review any speed and volume information supplied by the Traffic Safety Unit;
 - b) Perform an on-site review of the area;
 - c) Make recommendations for the installation of one or more devices;
- 5) Within (15) days of the completion of the steps outlined above the Engineering Division shall provide to the applicant, in writing, a report on the findings and recommendations for one or more traffic calming solutions, if warranted.
- 6) The applicant should carefully review the City's response, as well as share with interested neighbors, before making a decision as to how (and if) to proceed with the next step of the traffic calming process.

**Adopted 5/8/18 by the Turlock City Council as part of the Engineering Fee Study*

Step No. 3: Complete a Traffic Calming Installation Application

- 1) Complete and submit a no-cost *Traffic Calming Installation Application* to the Engineering Division. This submission must include:
 - a) The application form itself, specifying the specific traffic calming option proposed for installation, and
 - b) Approval signatures from at least 75% of adjacent property owners. Please note that signatures must be from property owners, not renters. Qualifying owners will own a property that fronts, or has a side yard on, the section of street for which a *Traffic Calming Installation Application* is submitted, and
 - c) Agreement of property owners to pay for 100% of the project costs, which include design, materials, labor, inspection, security retention and projected future maintenance costs.
- 2) The form may be submitted by (1) email at engineering@turlock.ca.us, or (2) fax at 209-668-5563, or (3) by mail or in-person at City of Turlock, Engineering Division, 156 S. Broadway, Suite 150, Turlock, CA 95380.
- 3) The application will be briefly reviewed for completeness. Incomplete forms, such as those that haven't completed Step #2, don't meet the minimum requirements listed above, or are missing other key pieces of information, will be not be accepted.
- 4) Within (30) days of receipt of this form the Engineering Division will schedule a public hearing to solicit feedback from the neighborhood and community. The City shall follow standard public noticing procedures for notifying neighbors.
- 5) Within (10) business days following the public hearing the Engineering Division shall contact the applicant in writing to advise of approval or disapproval of the proposed project. If not approved, a reason will be provided. Applicants may appeal a denial within (30) days for consideration by the Turlock City Manager.
- 6) If approved, the applicant may proceed to the next step in the process.

Step No. 4: Construction/Installation of Traffic Calming Devices

- 1) The applicant will be directed to submit payment, in full, for the estimated project costs, as outlined in the project cost estimate previously provided to them. This will include the construction costs, projected future maintenance costs, and a refundable security deposit that is equal to 100% of the construction costs. This payment should be made payable to “City of Turlock” and be in the form of a cashier’s check.
- 2) The applicant will be instructed to hire a contractor for completing the work. The City will not make recommendations for which contractor to use, but will require that the selected contractor obtain an encroachment permit from the Engineering Division prior the commencement of work within the public right-of-way.
- 3) Once the payment of fees has been completed and the appropriate permits have been obtained the contractor will schedule the work and notify the City Engineer of the duration.
- 4) The project will be inspected by a public works construction inspector both during and after the course of construction. This is done to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and City standards.
- 5) Once the improvements have been constructed and accepted by the City Engineer, through approval of the public works construction inspector, the applicant can retrieve their security deposit. The project is then complete.

Pre-approved Traffic Calming Devices

The devices listed in this section have been pre-approved for use on city streets. Any device not listed in this section must be reviewed and approved separately by the City Engineer prior to approval of a *Traffic Calming Installation Application*.

Radar Speed Feedback Signs

- 1) A speed feedback sign uses radar to identify an approaching driver's speed and then display it.
- 2) Advantages:
 - a) Mounted to existing street light poles, when available,
 - b) Does not slow down emergency vehicles,
 - c) Less expensive to acquire and install than many other options,
 - d) Zero noise generated from device.
- 3) Disadvantages:
 - a) Requires a power source (either hardwired or solar panel)
 - b) Only effective for one direction of travel
 - c) Not self-enforcing
 - d) Subject to vandalism
- 4) Costs:
 - a) Low to medium installation costs
 - b) High enforcement costs



Speed Lumps

1) Similar to 'speed humps' except they are divided into three sections with one foot of space in between each section. These gaps are specifically spaced to accommodate the wider axle widths of fire engines. All other vehicles with smaller axle widths have to go over the speed lumps with at least one side of the vehicle. Speed lumps are typically 12'–15' long and 3"– 4" inches in height.

2) Application:

- a) Two-lane, residential streets with a travel width of less than 40',
- b) On streets with curb and gutter improvements in place,
- c) Shall not be installed within at least 150' of the beginning or end of a curve in the roadway,
- d) Shall be spaced 300' – 600' apart,
- e) Can be used in conjunction with other approved devices,
- f) Streets with a longitudinal grade of 5% or less.



3) Advantages:

- a) Effective in reducing speed,
- b) Does not require removal of on-street parking,
- c) Can reduce vehicular volume as well.

4) Disadvantages:

- a) Increased noise and air pollution near lumps,
- b) Will cause delay to emergency vehicles (except fire engines),
- c) Not aesthetically pleasing,
- d) May divert traffic to parallel streets,
- e) May cause discomfort to motorists & passengers.

5) Costs:

- a) Medium installation costs
- b) Medium enforcement costs

Median Islands

- 1) Raised island in the center of the roadway with one-way traffic on each side.
- 2) Application: Used on wide streets to narrow each direction of travel.
- 3) Advantages:
 - a) Narrowed travel lanes provide “friction” and can slow vehicle speeds,
 - b) Opportunity for landscaping and visual enhancement of the neighborhood,
 - c) Better utilize what would otherwise be “unused pavement”,
 - d) Can be used to control and/or limit traffic access to adjacent properties if desired.
- 4) Disadvantages:
 - a) Long medians may impact access by emergency traffic,
 - b) May interrupt driveway access and result in U-turns,
 - c) Will require the removal of parking if the resulting travel lane is less than 17’ wide,
 - d) May require circuitous access to driveways by residents,
 - e) Creates a physical obstruction in the traveled way,
- 5) Special considerations:
 - a) Landscaping shall meet the requirements of M.W.E.L.O.,
 - b) Landscaping shall be designed so as not to affect the visibility of other motorists or pedestrians, especially at intersections and crossing areas,
 - c) Minimum travel lane width of 11’ shall be maintained,
 - d) Median island should be divided into sections to accommodate cross streets and key crossing areas.
- 6) Costs:
 - a) High costs for installation
 - b) Low costs for maintenance and enforcement



Traffic Calming Request Form

This form is to be used to request the installation of one or more speed bumps or other traffic calming devices. Please complete this form in its entirety. Completed applications must be submitted to the Turlock Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email (optional): _____

I am currently experiencing the following traffic related issues on my street:

- Excessive speed
- Excessive Volume
- Other: _____

I would like traffic calming device(s) on: _____ (street)

between: _____ (street) and _____ (street)

Through my signature below I am requesting the City to conduct targeted enforcement, perform on-site reviews and studies as warranted, and make recommendations for potential traffic calming solutions along the section of street described above. I understand that any recommendations made will require the consent of a majority of the affected neighbors. I further understand that any potential traffic calming improvement will need to be privately funded (no City funds).

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

On behalf of the Turlock Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) I certify that the TSU has been made aware of the traffic concerns along the section of roadway indicated above, that the TSU has provide enforcement assistance based on available resources for a period of at least (30) days, and that these enforcement efforts have not been successful in resolving the excessive speed or excessive volume issues within the defined area. I am recommending a review and evaluation by the Engineering Division.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Traffic Calming Installation Application

Applicants who have previously submitted a *Traffic Calming Request Form* and received a traffic calming report from the Engineering Division may use this application to request the installation of one or more approved traffic calming devices. This application shall contain the contact information for the lead applicant, who will be responsible for coordinating information and payments between the City and the affected property owners in the neighborhood.

Lead Applicant

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Full Physical Address: _____

Full Mailing Address (if different): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email (optional): _____

Project Information

Traffic calming device(s) will be installed on: _____ (street)

between: _____ (street) and _____ (street)

The neighborhood has requested the installation of the following traffic calming devices:

Radar Speed Signs Speed Lumps Median Island

Other (approved by City Engineer): _____

The City Engineer has estimated the total cost of this project to be: \$ _____

Petition of Property Owners I have attached a petition to this application that contains the names, signatures, and addresses of all real property owners (*not renters*) that own property that fronts, or has a side yard on, the section of street for which these improvements shall be made. This petition shall also provide a statement indicating a description of the proposed improvements and their proposed location(s).

I, as lead applicant, request the installation of traffic calming devices as stated above. I understand that I am responsible for 100% of the full costs associated with the project, to include the collection of any pro-rated amounts agreed upon amongst neighbors, and further agree to make said payments, to include the required security deposit, promptly to the Engineering Division upon approval by the City.

Signature: _____

Date: _____