

Iowa City's Traffic Calming Program



The goal of Iowa City's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is to reduce excessive speeding and/or traffic volumes on local and collector streets. Participation in the program is neighborhood-initiated and is not imposed by the City.

Which streets qualify?

- To be considered for Traffic Calming a street must be functionally classified as either a local residential street or collector street. Collector streets will not be considered for traffic diversion, though they may be considered for speed reduction.
- Traffic calming will be considered only along street frontages where 75% of lots are developed.

A traffic study must determine the following about your street:

Traffic volumes should exceed :

- 500 vehicles per day on a local street;
- 1,000 vehicles per day on a collector street .

Volumes should not exceed 3,000 vehicles per day on streets considered for the program.

OR

The measured comfortable speed of drivers (85th percentile speed) should exceed 5 MPH over the posted speed limit. In other words, speed measurements must show that 15% of drivers are exceeding the posted speed limit by 5 MPH or more.

TRAFFIC CALMING is the practice of managing traffic speeds and/or volumes on residential streets using one or more approaches: increased police enforcement, driver education (e.g. signs), or physical changes to the roadway (e.g. speed humps, lane striping, on



Step 1: PETITION FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

Complete a petition requesting a traffic study. Only residents along the portion of the street for which traffic calming is being sought may sign. To be valid, the petition must include signatures from no less than 50% of the homes or apartments located on property along the affected street (one signature per household will be counted). SEE: Petition form on the back of this sheet.

Step 2: STUDY AND EVALUATION

Once a qualified petition is received, City staff will initiate a traffic study to measure vehicle volume and speeds over a 72-hour period. If speeds or volumes meet the criteria for traffic calming, staff will review the street section and propose a set of traffic calming measures that may be safely implemented.

Step 3: NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Staff will review the traffic study with residents of the street and describe possible remedies at a neighborhood meeting. This provides an opportunity for residents to ask questions of staff and discuss solutions with their neighbors. The goal of the meeting is to determine whether there is support from the neighborhood to pursue any of the measures proposed by staff.

Step 4: NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

If residents at the neighborhood meeting wish to move forward with a proposed traffic calming measure, staff will send a mail-back survey card to each household along the affected street section. The proposal for traffic calming must be supported by 60% of those responding to the survey in order to be considered for implementation. A 50% response rate to the mail-back survey is required.

Step 5: REVIEW AND APPROVAL

If the mail-back survey indicates approval by 60% of respondents, Staff will place the traffic calming request on a City Council agenda. Signs will be posted along the street to announce a public comment period to allow other neighbors and the general public to weigh-in on the proposed changes. All written comments received by staff will be forwarded to Council for their consideration.

For questions or to submit a petition for Traffic Calming, contact:

Sarah Walz, Assistant Transportation Planner, 319-356-5239 or sarah-walz@iowa-city.org
NDS, City Hall, 410 East Washington St., Iowa City, IA 52240



CITY OF IOWA CITY

By signing this petition you are indicating your support for a traffic calming study on your street.

This will allow City Staff to study traffic volumes and speeds along your street. Results of the study will be provided to you and, if the measured comfortable speed of drivers (85th percentile speed) is found to exceed 5 MPH over the posted speed limit and if measured volumes meet the program's minimum criteria, staff will organize a neighborhood meeting to discuss potential solutions that may be effectively implemented along your street to calm traffic. Solutions typically include installation of signs, increased police enforcement, or physical changes to the road-way such as speed humps.

STREET NAME: _____

- Indicate the specific intersections (or addresses) between which the traffic calming study is being requested (e.g. Main St. between 3rd and 7th Avenues). To be eligible for the Traffic Calming Program you must have signatures from 50% of households along the affected street section.
- **To sign this petition you must reside along the portion of street for which a traffic calming is being requested (see above). Renters may sign. One signature per household.**

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