

Neighborhood Traffic Calming

What is Neighborhood Traffic Calming?

Traffic calming is the combination of policies, education, enforcement, and implementation of measures that help reduce speeding problems and heavy traffic flow on residential streets. Making residential streets more “calm” results in more livable neighborhoods.

What Is the City of Poway’s Process for Reviewing Neighborhood Traffic Concerns?

Residents should clearly identify and explain their traffic concerns in writing to the City Traffic Engineer, Development Services Department, City of Poway, PO Box 789, Poway, CA 92074. City staff will collect traffic data (volume and speed of vehicles) and present a report to the City’s Traffic Safety Committee (TSC). The TSC will then make a recommendation to the City Council, on which the City Council may act by Resolution or Ordinance. This entire process usually takes approximately 4 to 6 months.

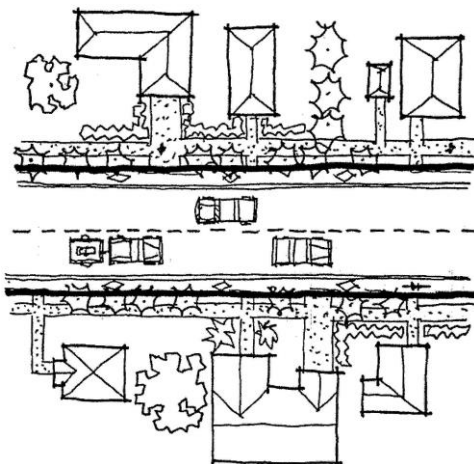
What Guidelines Does the City Use for Neighborhood Traffic Calming?

The City of Poway follows the guidelines and recommendations outlined in *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice*, published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (<http://www.ite.org/traffic/tcstate.htm#tcsop>).

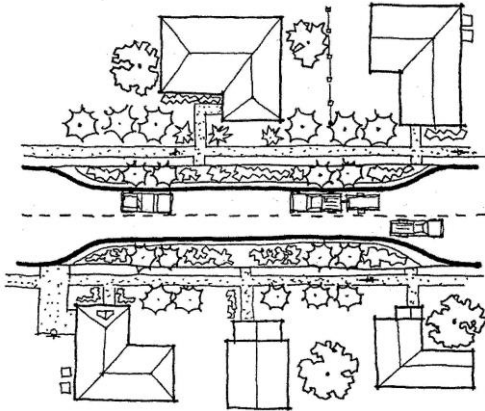
What are some of the Options Available to Residents on Neighborhood Traffic Issues?

There are several measures that can be used on residential streets to calm traffic. These measures can be divided into two levels to reflect their impact on the City’s emergency vehicles, the cost of the measures, and the measures’ restrictiveness on the traffic flow.

Level 1 measures do not involve major physical changes to the street and can be implemented by the City rather quickly. These measures may include education on neighborhood traffic calming, enforcement and deployment of a vehicle speed radar trailer, signage (such as truck restrictions), turn restrictions during certain hours of the day, and/or roadway center line and edge line striping.



Level 2 measures require a major physical change to the street using devices such as speed humps, road narrowing, or turn-restricting medians. The City of Poway has yet to implement Level 2 measures except for the speed humps installed on Carriage Road north of Poway Road in the early 1990s. Level 2 measures require a funding source, and the City may ask the residents to participate in the cost of such traffic calming measures.



What Are the General Criteria for City Streets to Qualify for Neighborhood Traffic Calming?

There are several criteria that City staff considers before the implementation of neighborhood traffic calming measures. The street must primarily be a residential street and must meet the following conditions:

- ❑ The traffic volume (Average Daily Traffic) is greater than 1,000 cars/day;
- ❑ At least 15% of the traffic is driving more than 10 mph over the speed limit;
- ❑ The street is not considered a primary route for emergency vehicles per the City's Fire Department;
- ❑ The traffic measures will not result in a significant diversion of traffic to other residential streets;
- ❑ The traffic measures will not result in unreasonable liability to the City; and
- ❑ Local and State laws authorize the requested action.

Do We Need a Petition for Neighborhood Traffic Calming Measures?

The City requires a signed petition from the residents affected by the traffic measures, with at least 70% of the residents in favor of the requested action. The City also requires that the neighbors work together and form a Traffic Committee to interact with City staff. The Committee will work with City staff to identify potential solutions to the specific traffic issue.

Traffic Safety Committee

The City of Poway Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) encourages all citizens of Poway to attend its meetings and raise any traffic or roadway safety concerns they may have.

The Committee meets three times per year at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located at 13325 Civic Center Drive. The meeting is open to the public.

Meeting agendas are posted on the [TSC webpage](#).

*For more information, please contact the Development Services
Traffic Engineering Division at
(858)668-4668 or traffichelp@poway.org*