

Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 21-1

Title: Traffic Calming Program

Date Adopted: February 16, 2021

Effective Date: February 16, 2021

Reference: *N/A*

Policy Superseded: None

It shall be policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida that a new policy entitled "Traffic Calming Program" is hereby adopted, to wit:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent:

- A. Traffic Calming is the concept of making traffic movements in residential neighborhoods more compatible with residential lifestyles. Speeding traffic and dangerous driving are not conducive to such activities as children playing in yards, riding bikes in streets, or adults taking an evening stroll after hard days at work. As residential areas grow and development occurs around residential areas, traffic patterns change. Residents find that what was once an idyllic neighborhood has turned into something more like an old-fashioned highway. As these events continue to occur, citizens and government come together to try and find solutions. Often the results are changes to the roads and streets that are affected by undesirable traffic situations. By making modifications to the area roads, traffic is forced to slow down to reasonable speeds. Drivers must be more attentive to their driving, reducing reckless disregard for a neighborhood.
- B. The intent of this policy is to develop eligibility and implementation criteria for consideration for the Traffic Calming Program.

Section 2. Program Eligibility

The following Criteria shall be utilized to evaluate for Traffic Calming:

- A. Local Residential Public Roads:
1. Vehicle trips per day must be at least 150
 2. 85th percentile speed must be at least 5 mph over the posted speed limit
 3. Only two lanes of traffic (one in each direction)
 4. Posted speed limit of less than 35 mph

5. Petition for the entire roadway must include seventy-five (75%) of the property owners abutting the affected roadway(s). Affected properties on a roadway include abutting properties that have any frontage on the road, including side and rear frontage.
6. Minimum road length a quarter of mile (1,320 feet)
7. Abutting properties must be residential
8. If the area has an active Homeowner's Association (HOA), the HOA must provide a letter endorsing the installation of traffic calming features.

B. Minor Collector Public Roads

1. Vehicle trips per day must be at least 3,500
2. 85th percentile speed must be at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit
3. Only two lanes of traffic (one in each direction)
4. Posted speed limit of less than 35 mph
5. Petition for the entire roadway section, requesting traffic calming no less than a quarter of a mile, must include seventy-five (75%) of the property owners abutting the affected roadway(s). Affected properties on a roadway include abutting properties that have any frontage on the road, including side and rear frontage. The HOA may file a petition for traffic calming when there are no existing driveways connected to the road segment subject to traffic calming.
6. Minimum road length a quarter of mile (1,320 feet)
7. Must be located in a residential neighborhood
8. If the area has an active HOA, the HOA must provide a letter endorsing the installation of traffic calming features.

Section 3.
Program Procedures

- A. Petition to Study: Must be received from 75% or more of the property owners abutting the affected roadway(s).
- B. Data Collection by Traffic Engineering: Speeds, volumes, accidents, sidewalks, schools, other pedestrian generators and a condition diagram.
- C. Priority Ranking: Once a petition to study is received and data is collected by Traffic Engineering, a roadway is ranked and placed on the Residential Area Traffic Calming Candidate Listing based on the following criteria. This ranking will determine the priority for each eligible roadway. Priority listing will be updated every six months.

1. Speeds (Max: 30 Points)

<u>Speed Criteria (85th Percentile)</u>	<u>Points</u>
<25 mph	0
25.0 - 29.9 mph	5
30.0 - 34.9 mph	10
35.0 - 39.9 mph	15
40.0 - 44.9 mph	20
45.0 - 49.9 mph	25
>50 mph	30

2. **Accident Rate (Max: 25 Points)**

Number of accidents over 3-year period divided by 3

<u>Average Annual Rate</u>	<u>Points</u>
0.00 - 0.49	0
0.50 - 0.99	5
1.00 - 1.49	10
1.50 - 1.99	15
2.00 - 2.49	20
> 2.50	25

3. **School – within 1 mile (Max: 10 Points)**

4. **Other Pedestrian Generators – within 1 mile (Max: 10 Points)**

5. **No Sidewalks – in affected area (Max 10 points)**

6. **Lot Size Density (Max: 15 Points)**

<u>Lot Size (AC.)</u>	<u>Points</u>
>0.75	0
0.51 - 0.75	5
0.26 - 0.50	10
0.00 - 0.25	15

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 150

POINT SCORE MUST EXCEED 50 to qualify for Traffic Calming

D. Plan Development

1. Meeting with neighborhood to assess problems and needs.
2. Traffic Engineering Staff will develop preferred plan(s) or “No Build” alternative.
3. A combination of the following improvements may be considered based on road condition and physical characteristics of the neighborhood: speed tables, speed humps, convert to full stops, pavement treatment, pavement markings, and raised intersections.

E. Follow-up Neighborhood Meeting: Neighborhood is presented with recommended plan to provide input and give approval to construct.

F. Final Design and Permitting

G. Construction

H. Post Construction Evaluation: After 120 days, staff will evaluate impact on speeds, volumes and safety. Results will be presented to neighborhood.

I. Removal of Traffic Calming Devices: Traffic Calming Devices may be removed after a minimum two (2) years of installation, with a petition approved by 75% or more of the property owners abutting the affected roadway.

J. The Traffic Calming Program is subject to funding availability.