

Traffic Calming

According to the Institute of Traffic Engineers, traffic calming is the combination of measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.

Types of Traffic Calming Measures

Non-Physical Measures increase driver awareness. These devices are typically the first step to consider. Examples include new signs, center/edge line striping, high-visibility crosswalks, enforcement, and education. These measures can typically be implemented quickly and inexpensively. Additionally, speed radar trailers can be set up temporarily to help drivers become more aware of their speed in relation to the posted speed limit.

Road Narrowing Measures are less obtrusive than other devices and can be more aesthetically pleasing if residents opt to fund upgraded landscape. Examples include curb extensions and center islands/medians.

Horizontal Measures are used to physically eliminate straight line paths through intersections. These can be more intrusive but are also more effective than narrowing measures because they force vehicles to navigate horizontally around physical objects. Examples include traffic circles, roundabouts, and realigned intersections.



Vertical Measures provide the greatest speed reduction. However, they also have the greatest potential to slow emergency response vehicles, buses, and trucks. The placement of these devices should be carefully considered, as they can have unintended consequences. Examples include speed humps, raised crosswalks, rumble strips.

How can I get traffic calming measures on my street?

Contact the Department of Public Works to determine if your street is eligible to participate in the **Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)**. To initiate a study, a neighborhood is required to begin the process by completing a petition requesting traffic calming. This petition must be submitted to Public Works and signed by at least 10 residents from separate households.

If County traffic engineers determine that your street qualifies, a series of neighborhood meetings will be held to develop a plan for implementing traffic calming measures. Ultimately, a traffic calming plan can be implemented if the neighborhood votes in favor of the plan and is willing and able to fund certain measures.

For more information regarding the NTMP, visit the website:

[#](https://www.placer.ca.gov/1570/Neighborhood-Traffic-Management-Program)

#

