

CITY OF GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Mission

It is the mission of the City of Garden City to reduce speed and provide safer transportation systems through our neighborhoods. The goal of the Traffic Calming Policy is to improve safety and quality of life for residents by reducing the impact of vehicular traffic on residential neighborhood streets. This can be accomplished using education and traffic calming solutions to modify driver behavior.

Garden City will consider the following types of elements to achieve safer roadways:

- Roundabouts or Mini roundabouts
- Hardscaping improvements
 - Lane Narrowing
 - Intersection directive features
 - Chicanes or Diverters
 - Turn movement restrictions
- Radar Speed Signs
- Speed Humps
- Sidewalks or Multi-Use Paths

Eligibility

Only streets that are considered local residential streets will be eligible for the use of traffic calming elements. These streets should have a posted speed limit of 25 MPH and, in some cases, up to 30 MPH. No streets posted above 30 MPH will be considered for this policy. Also, any road considered for this policy must be over 1,500 feet in length.

To be considered a local road, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) definition is as follows:

- Urban
 - Provide direct access to adjacent properties
 - Provide access to higher roadway systems
 - Carry no through-traffic movement
- Rural
 - Serve primarily to provide access to properties
 - Provide service to travel over short distances
 - Constitute the mileage not classified as part of the Arterial and Collector systems.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Process

To initiate the Neighborhood Traffic Calming process, a resident or representative of a residential area must provide a completed application (See Appendix A) to the Special Projects Coordinator to investigate traffic calming measures. The request must include the road or roads to be included in the request and the justification for making the request (speeding, cut-through traffic, etc.). An initial petition showing a minimum of 70% of residents living on the street or streets that approve of the investigation must accompany the initial request.

The City Manager will review the request to see if the road or roads requested meet the preliminary criteria established. If the preliminary criteria established are met, the Special Projects Coordinator will establish the study area and schedule a speed study to be completed for the roads, as well as an investigation of any traffic accident reports over the past 5 years. For the purposes of this policy, a road will be deemed to have a traffic speeding problem if the 85th percentile speed is at least 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

If the speed study results indicate that traffic speeds do not meet the preliminary criteria, the applicant will be informed in writing, and the Special Projects Coordinator will continue to monitor the area. If the results indicate that traffic speeds and volumes meet preliminary criteria, the applicant will be notified, and a preliminary discussion on possible options will begin.

The results of the speed study, on-site investigation, and the study area established by the City Manager, Special Projects Coordinator, and consultants will be utilized to develop a plan of action for implementing traffic calming measures that meet the policy's goals. A tiered plan of action will be developed, with the goal of utilizing the least expensive and least intrusive options available first. The plan will be presented at a City Council workshop to the neighborhood for comments prior to consideration at a City Council meeting for implementation.

After the traffic calming plan is implemented, the City Council may request another speed study to determine the effectiveness of the measures implemented. Based on the study's results, additional measures may be considered, and an additional study may be conducted at the City Council's discretion. It is important to remember that implementing traffic calming measures is a repetitive process, and what works well in one neighborhood may not necessarily work well in another neighborhood.

If a neighborhood decides that it no longer wants previously installed traffic calming devices, it must follow the same process to obtain 70% support by petition in favor of removal. The rules governing the petition's signing and procedure are the same as those used in the installation approval process. Such a petition for removal will only be considered after at least one year after installation. Active traffic calming devices should remain in place for at least 12 months before removal is considered.

APPENDIX A

Traffic Calming Needs Assessment Application Applicant

Information (Required)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Requestor Signature: _____

Resident 1 ☐ Property Owner 2 ☐

Traffic Issue	Very Significant	Significant	Not Significant
Traffic Volumes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut-through traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Accidents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrian Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other- please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Location of Requested Needs Assessment – Please define the geographic boundaries as clearly as possible (e.g. 400, 500, and 600 blocks of Olds Louisville Road):

Conditions Necessitating Assessment – Please provide a detailed description of the problems observed in the Assessment Area:

Please identify the time of the day when the traffic problems appear to be the worst (such as AM peak, PM peak, afternoon, evening, or night).

Please describe any of the following characteristics of your neighborhood: heavy use by pedestrians, bicyclists, or other more vulnerable users; substandard streets (lack of sidewalks, narrow streets, right curves, limited sight distance, etc.) and pedestrian generating facilities (parks, elderly housing, shopping areas, etc.).

Please describe if there are any schools, places of worship, recreational centers, hotels, or historical monuments in the vicinity of the location.

Please describe if the traffic problems mainly occur during holidays (such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year, etc.)

Please describe who you think is causing the traffic problems. For example, is it residents or cut-through traffic? Is it cars or delivery trucks, etc.?

Please describe if the traffic problems create safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists in your neighborhood. If yes, then please describe how the traffic problems affect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists in your neighborhood.

Are there existing traffic calming measures within the Assessment you have defined? If yes, please describe whether they are effective.

If traffic calming is implemented, how would you feel about having traffic calming measures (median islands, speed humps, corner bulb-outs, etc.) being placed in front of your home? Are you willing to lose on-street parking in front of your home?

Have you previously contacted the City of Garden City for help in addressing your traffic problems? If yes, please indicate which departments have been contacted.

Is the area of concern an active construction zone? If so, do you know the project name, or can you provide a description of the project?

Are there any traffic-calming treatments that you would not find acceptable?

Please provide us with any additional comments you feel would be helpful.

Does the area of concern include any CAT bus stops or affect other transit access?

Please return the completed Traffic Calming Needs Assessment to:

Ben Brengman, Special Projects Coordinator

bbrengman@gardencity-ga.gov

100 Central Avenue

Garden City, Ga. 31405

Block(s): _____

I support the development of a traffic calming device/plan for the street and block(s) listed above. I understand that the street in front of my property may be identified for the installation of a traffic calming measure, and I am willing to forgo on-street parking in the interest of traffic safety.

[illegible]