



CITY of MEBANE

POLICY STATEMENT	
SUBJECT: Traffic Calming Policy	PAGE 1 OF 3
	EFFECTIVE:
	SUPERSEDES: N/A
	PREPARED BY: David Cheek, City Manager
	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: DATE:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The City occasionally receives complaints from residents regarding traffic issues in their neighborhoods. These complaints may be initially referred to the Police Department for possible enforcement action. Should complaints continue, the City may approve traffic calming measures as outlined below or other measures that City Staff may recommend. Traffic Calming measures are physical or regulatory measures that reduce speed and or traffic volume and include but are not limited to the following: reducing the posted speed limit, installing stop signs, speed humps, speed cushions, roundabouts, traffic circles; road narrowing or establishing designated parking areas.

Traffic calming measures may be approved on City maintained streets meeting the following criteria:

1. Traffic Calming Policy will apply only to streets where the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less, be residential in nature, paved and have adequate drainage to accommodate traffic calming measures. Policy will apply only to streets that are classified as local, subcollector or collector streets as defined in Mebane’s UDO. The Policy will not apply to NCDOT maintained streets or major or minor thoroughfare streets shown on the Burlington-Graham Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan.
2. A petition bearing the signatures of at least 65% of the properties within the affected block(s) that traffic calming measures are being requested. The City will provide a petition that must be used to obtain residents signatures. A map showing the location of proposed traffic calming measures will be attached with the petition. Only one signature for a property of multiple owners will be required.

3. Where the posted speed limit is greater than 25 mph, city staff will review request and if standards are met, present a request for Council's consideration to reduce posted speed limit to 25 mph.
4. After a minimum of 3 months, City Staff will have a community meeting with residents to gather information on effectiveness of speed limit reduction.
 - a. If after enforcement and monitoring, speeding concerns have been addressed then no further action will be required.
 - b. If after enforcement and monitoring, speeding is still a concern, then City Staff will have a traffic study performed to confirm the street block(s) meets the following minimum standards:
 - i. The Average Daily Traffic volume must be a minimum of 500 vehicles per day and must be no more than 2,500 vehicles per day.
 - ii. The 85th Percentile Speed (the speed below which 85% of vehicles travel) on the street segment is more than 6 mph above the posted speed limit.
 - iii. Length of street segment must exceed 750 feet.
5. In analyzing the request for traffic calming measures, input will be solicited from emergency services, school transportation and other key agencies. No more than five (5) speed humps or traffic calming measures that significantly reduce the speed of fire trucks are permitted between a fire station and each property in the City Limits to address fire response time concerns.
6. Should the traffic study indicate that the minimum standards are met, then city staff will prepare a Preliminary Traffic Calming Plan based on traffic study results, input from key agencies and in accordance with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) guidelines and recommendations for the traffic calming measures. All signs (regulatory and warning) and pavement markings required for traffic calming measures will be in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and NCDOT standard detail drawings and specifications. Where speed humps are recommended as the traffic calming measures, speed humps shall be in accordance with the following:
 - a. A minimum of 100 feet is recommended from uncontrolled intersections and 200 feet from control intersections (stop signs and or traffic signals).
 - b. Minimum spacing between speed humps will be at least 200 feet and not more than 750 feet, except where the street geometry provides for a design speed of 25 mph.
 - c. Speed humps shall be installed to avoid driveways, drainage features, utilities, traffic control devices and severe horizontal or vertical curves. Speed humps shall be installed as close to property lines as practical.
7. Following completion of a Preliminary Traffic Calming Plan, city staff will coordinate a meeting with residents of neighborhood to solicit input from neighborhood. A Final Traffic Calming Plan will be prepared incorporating the comments received and presented to Council for consideration.

8. The installation of traffic calming measures is subject to the availability of funding. Streets not meeting the criteria set forth above may be considered for alternative measures where appropriate.
9. The City Council may approve the installation of traffic calming measures on City maintained streets when it is determined to be in the interest of public safety. Such approval shall occur after City Council has ordered a study pursuant to a request for traffic calming measures, held a public hearing at which the findings and recommendations of the study have been presented and determined that traffic calming measures are the most effective remedy to the public safety concerns. The study conducted pursuant to this section shall consider the impact of traffic calming measures on the delivery of emergency services and shall also consider other alternatives to address the concerns of public safety. Property owners within the block(s) for which traffic calming measures are considered for installation in accordance with this section of the Traffic Calming Policy shall be contacted and afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposed installation of traffic calming measures and the findings of the study. Council shall consider the findings, recommendations of the study and comments received at the public hearing in making a determination on the installation of traffic calming measures.
10. Following an adequate review and analysis period, traffic calming measures may be removed if a petition with signatures from a majority (more than 50%) of the affected property owners is obtained, or where traffic circulation and safety concerns justify their removal. Traffic Calming measures installed pursuant to Section 9 of this Policy shall be removed upon order of City Council.