



**VILLAGE OF GARDEN CITY**  
**POLICY AND PROTOCOL FOR REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Traffic Calming Devices are used to break up long uninterrupted streets that have excessive speeding issues. Examples of Traffic Calming Devices are speed humps, speed tables and chicanes. These devices are described in the studies issued by the Village's Consulting Traffic Engineer and available on the website (Numbered Streets Traffic Calming Study, Cathedral Avenue Road Diet Study and Satellite Study).

The Village has begun to install Traffic Calming Devices in accordance with these studies. There are now permanent speed humps on Fourth Street after the temporary speed humps yielded substantial reductions in vehicle speeds. In addition, the Traffic Commission is evaluating their suitability for several other streets. A speed hump is a rounded traffic calming device intended to reduce vehicle speed on residential streets. The speed humps are placed across the road to slow traffic and are usually installed in a series in order to prevent cars from speeding before and after the hump.

Speed humps are approximately 12 feet in length and span the width of the road. Typically, they are constructed of asphalt or recycled rubber. A warning sign notifies motorists of their presence before humps. They have a tapered edge to allow for drainage as well as pavement markings to enhance visibility. The purpose of speed humps is to reduce the speeds of vehicles and they are used in locations where very low speeds are desired and reasonable. The Traffic Commission has prioritized school and park locations, areas where many children gather. Speed humps are not used on major roads or emergency response routes.

As mentioned above, a study of the effect of speed humps installed on Fourth Street demonstrated that the presence of the speed humps substantially slowed traffic, thereby making it safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. The purpose of this Policy and Protocol is to establish guidelines and criteria under which traffic calming devices, including speed humps, will be evaluated for installation on a residential street.

**MINIMUM CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES**

- Community support of 75% of homeowners in area of affected street where the devices are placed between intersecting streets including corner houses. Measured area of support includes continuous streets if there is no outlet.
- 100% support of homeowners immediately adjacent to the proposed traffic calming device, including speed humps.
- When based on a resident request, traffic studies must find that a speeding problem exists based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, otherwise known as the critical speed, is the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is moving. For other reasons, the Traffic Commission may waive this requirement.

### **ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL STREET**

- Less than 40 feet wide
- No more than two lanes
- Not a primary route for emergency vehicles
- Restricted to no thru commercial traffic
- Volume between 500 and 3000 vehicle per day
- A minimum of 1,000 feet long
- Not more than 8% grade

### **GUIDELINES FOR PLACEMENT OF SPEED HUMPS**

- As a series, between 200-750 feet apart
- 200 feet from an intersection or traffic control device
- Must not impede driveways or walkways
- Will not be located over manholes, water valves or other utilities
- Will not be located within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- Should be located near street lights whenever possible

### **SIGNS AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS**

- Intended and required to warn motorists of the speed humps
- Warning Signs - SPEED HUMP AHEAD will be placed 100 feet from the center of the speed hump
- Pavement Markings - Pavement markings may be placed on each approach and on the device.
- All signs and pavement markings will conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

### **PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR ANY TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE**

(This applies to resident generated requests not village generated requests)

1. A resident requests the installation on their residential block or another block explaining the basis for their interest and specifying what traffic calming device they are requesting be installed. The request must be accompanied by a petition signed by a resident from 75% of the homes in the block. The petition must identify the Traffic Calming Device requested and the block, or section of the block, making the request and should be in the form attached.
2. If the block has not previously had such a request, the Police Department will conduct a preliminary inspection of the street to assess if the requested Traffic Calming Device is appropriate to calm traffic. If not, the resident will be notified that the street is ineligible and the Police Department, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission, will consider other options.
3. When a street is deemed eligible, the Police Department will conduct speed and volume surveys, as well as a review of accident history data. If the results of this work do not support installation, the Police Department, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission, will consider other options.
4. The Garden City Fire Department should be notified of the request and their input will be requested.
5. A meeting for residents will be scheduled to discuss the installation guidelines, criteria, input of emergency service providers, benefits and possible disadvantages of the devices, as well as review the findings of the traffic surveys.
6. Based on a consensus at the meeting, a written survey will be sent to each homeowner whose homes are located immediately adjacent to the planned location of the devices.

7. The Traffic Commission, and the Board of Trustees will consider a resolution for installation of the Traffic Calming Device if 100% of the homeowners who are located immediately adjacent to the devices respond positively to the survey referenced in #6 above.
8. Upon the approval of the Traffic Commission and the Board of Trustees, the construction/installation schedule will be determined by the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works. Scheduling factors may include budget, weather and DPW workload.

#### **REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES INCLUDING SPEED HUMPS**

There may be instances when the existence of a Traffic Calming Device, including speed humps, has a negative effect on the quality of life of residents. The Traffic Commission and the Village Board of Trustees will consider the removal of Traffic Calming Devices when 80% of residents in the affected area petition for the removal of the devices.

#### **INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES**

The Traffic Commission and the Village Board of Trustees may install and remove Traffic Calming Devices, including speed humps, for public safety reasons at any time. Further, upon any decision by the Traffic Commission or the BOT to approve or deny a resident's request for a traffic calming device, all residents whose email addresses appear on the petition filed with the request will be notified by email of the decision.



VILLAGE OF GARDEN CITY  
PETITION OF RESIDENT TO REQUEST TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I reside at \_\_\_\_\_.  
I am writing to request the installation of \_\_\_\_\_ (type of Traffic Calming Device).  
I request that the installation be on \_\_\_\_\_ (street)  
between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (cross streets).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Requestor

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

These other residents who reside in the area of proposed installation support my request:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Cell Phone Number</u>
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These residents who live in the area of proposed installation object to the installation or could not be contacted.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Cell Phone Number</u>
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