

City of Grain Valley Traffic Calming Policy

Purpose

The Traffic Calming Policy will be a guide used by City staff to effectively gather information for all traffic calming request made by the public. Under this policy the Grain Valley Community Development Department, the Police Department, and Citizens will work towards a cooperative and comprehensive solution for addressing neighborhood traffic concerns on local and residential collector streets. It is the desire of the City that this will provide all Citizens with safe and livable neighborhoods while reducing the negative effects of vehicular traffic.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide a formal application form to be filled out by the public.
- Provide staff with specific criteria to identify the best use of traffic calming measures.
- Provide direction and expectations of those requesting traffic calming measures.
- Ability for citizens to feel safe and secure when using roadways.
- Facilitate effective dialogue within applicant(s) on the process for requesting traffic calming measures.

Request for Traffic Study/Calming Measure

Requests for a traffic studies on neighborhood streets are used to solve specific concerns with respect to traffic volumes, speeds, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety or operations of the roadway. Traffic studies may be initiated by any of the following:

- Residents, business owners or neighborhood association representatives.
- Police Department, Fire Department, schools, or other similar service agencies.
- City staff or City department.

The applicant requesting traffic calming on a municipal roadway must complete and provide to the City of Grain Valley's Community Development Department a Request for Traffic Study/Calming Measure application form.

At a minimum the request should identify the applicant, description of perceived problem (i.e. excessive speed); specific location(s), types of vehicles, and time of day.

Notice to Applicant

Upon receipt of a completed Request for Traffic Study/Calming Measure application, City staff may collect additional information and data related to the requested location including street width, street classification, parking, land use, presence of sidewalks, parks, schools, police records and any other appropriate information to assist in addressing the concern.

When all necessary information and data has been collected, City staff will begin an appropriate traffic study for the requested location. The results of the study will determine which course of action or combination of actions should be taken to address the traffic concern. These actions may include education, police enforcement, and/or physical traffic calming devices.

Education Actions

If the traffic study in the requested area identifies a clear problem, neighborhood education actions may be taken. City staff will attempt to raise public awareness and convey reasonable traffic expectations in residential neighborhoods through one or more of the following:

- Informational flyers that may cite statistics on speeding, cut-through traffic or other findings found in the traffic study.
- In the case of speeding, Police radar display units may be used to remind drivers they are speeding and thus encourage compliance with the speed limits.
- Additional signage may be posted along the roadway including speed signs or cautionary signs.

Police Enforcement Actions

If the traffic study in the requested area identifies such problems as speeding, City staff may coordinate with the Police Department to pursue increased police presence and ticketing in the identified areas and at specific times of the day.

Physical Traffic Calming Devices

The City of Grain Valley uses a recycled rubber speed hump device that is textured with reflective color that may be placed along the roadway with signage identifying its presence and location. The purpose of this device is to slow vehicles speeding within residential neighborhoods and help control speeds in areas of high traffic volumes. This use of this device will be determined by the traffic study results along with meeting the qualifications outlined in this policy. These devices are not permanent and may be placed in locations of verified traffic problems for a period of one season from May thru October. After which that street will not be considered for a speed hump device for a minimum of one (1) year. As it relates to the installation of a qualifying speed hump device, request will be fulfilled based on the order of submitted Request for Traffic Study/Calming Measures applications.

Due to the limited quantity of speed hump devices some identified areas of speeding meeting the qualifications for this device may only receive other traffic calming measures.

Because of the City's limited number of speed hump devices any homeowners association may choose to pay 100% of the cost of a speed hump device matching the approved device used by the City. A representative of the homeowners association must submit a complete Request for Traffic Study/Calming Measure application identifying the perceived location of the traffic problem. Installation of any speed hump device must meet all qualifications outlined in this policy. If all qualifications for a speed hump device are met, the homeowners association may purchase an approved speed hump device to be used exclusively within their neighborhood. The homeowners association will be invoiced by the City for the current cost of the speed hump device. The homeowners association must sign an agreement to pay a yearly installation and removal fee in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) along with any necessary replacement cost due to damage to the device. The neighborhood association will only be allowed to purchase up to two (2) qualifying devices. These devices are not permanent and may be placed in other locations of verified traffic problems within the homeowner association neighborhood between the periods of May thru October. The homeowner association representative may request that the speed hump device remain in the same location as previously qualified.

Traffic Calming Device Qualifications

Not all streets may be suitable for a physical traffic calming device used by the City. Suitability is based on the streets classification, detected speeds, volume, and several other criteria. For a street to qualify for a physical traffic calming device it must meet the following requirements and score more than 50 points on the point rating system described on Table 1 and Table 2:

- Streets classified as "Local" or "Residential Collector" by the City of Grain Valley
- No more than two travel lanes
- Horizontal curve with a 300 foot radius or more
- Vertical curve with adequate stopping sight distance
- Roadway grade of 8% or less
- Posted speed of 30mph or less

Point Criteria for "Local" Streets	
Criteria	Basis for Point Assignment
Speed	4 pts for each mph that the 85th percentile speed is over the posted speed limit [(85th % speed- posted speed)x4pts]
Volume	1 pt for every 50 vehicles of daily traffic
Sidewalks	10 pts if no continuous sidewalks on either side of the street
Pedestrian Generators	3 pts for every school, park, community center or church located within 1000 feet of study area (10 pts if elementary or middle schools)
Accident Reports	3 pts for each preventable collision in a three year period within 1000 feet of study area (10 points if disabling injury collision)

Table 1

Point Criteria for "Residential Collector" Streets	
Criteria	Basis for Point Assignment
Speed	4 pts for each mph that the 85th percentile speed is over the posted speed limit [(85th % speed- posted speed)x4pts]
Volume	1 pt for every 150 vehicles of daily traffic
Sidewalks	15 pts if no continuous sidewalks on either side of the street or 5 pts if sidewalk is on one side of the street
Pedestrian Generators	3 pts for every school, park, community center or church located within 500 feet of study area (10 pts if elementary or middle schools)
Accident Reports	2 pts for each preventable collision in a three year period within 1000 feet of study area (8 points if disabling injury collision)
Residential Density	1 pt for every 50 dwelling units within the impact area.

Table 2

Streets Not Meeting Device Qualifications

For streets not meeting the qualifications for a traffic calming device, or streets with traffic studies that do not identify a clear and consistent problem, the following strategies may be employed to relieve perceived or occasional traffic concerns:

- Educate residents within a neighborhood through general flyers citing statistics on speeding, cut-through traffic, or other findings with an appeal for traffic law compliance.
- Temporary deployment of radar speed displays to remind drivers of the posted speed encouraging compliance with the speed limit.
- Installation of additional speed signs to remind motorist of the roadways speed limit.
- Installation of cautionary signs to remind motorist that others including joggers, walkers, cycles, are using the roadway.
- Coordination with the Police Department to increase their presence and patrols in designated areas.

In some cases where streets do meet the traffic calming device qualifications but no devices are available, some or all the strategies listed above may be employed in the identified problem areas until a traffic calming device becomes available. All requests for traffic study/calming measures will be processed by the dates the completed applications are received.



Ryan Hunt, City Administrator

2/11/15

Date