



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Traffic Calming Frequently Asked Questions

What is traffic calming?

Traffic calming is the placement of physical measures in the roadway to decrease vehicle operating speeds and enhance safety. Examples include speed humps, speed tables, raised crosswalks, chokers, median islands, etc.

Who develops and who has final approval of the traffic calming plan?

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and the District Supervisor's office collaborate with a neighborhood traffic calming task force consisting of residents from the community. FCDOT develops proposed alternatives, but it is ultimately up to the task force to decide what plan to present to the community. FCDOT determines the project's impact area, and residents in this area are balloted to ensure that the traffic calming plan has widespread support.

Why not stop signs instead of speed humps?

The majority of roads in Fairfax County are owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). FCDOT does not have the authority to place stop signs in VDOT right of way through the Traffic Calming Program.

Do traffic calming measures affect emergency response times?

Studies have shown that traffic calming measures, especially vertical measures such as speed humps, speed tables, and raised crosswalks, can slow fire trucks and other emergency vehicles by about 3 to 10 seconds each. This impact will be cumulative with a series of measures.

Do speed humps affect snow removal?

Speed humps, speed tables, and raised crosswalks are gradually sloped so that snowplow blades go over without damage to them or the pavement surface.

Do speed humps create additional noise levels?

Studies have shown some increase in noise on roads where the total percent of heavy truck traffic volume is 20% or greater.

Do traffic calming measures affect property values?

There is no evidence to suggest that traffic calming measures either raise or lower residential property values.

Can vehicles park on speed humps?

Vehicles can park on speed humps and speed tables, but no parking is permitted on raised crosswalks.

Can the speed humps on our street be made higher or lower?

The design specifications for speed humps, speed tables, and raised crosswalks were created by VDOT and are not subject to alteration by FCDOT.