

# City of Savannah

## Traffic Calming Policy

### Mission Statement

It is the policy of the City of Savannah (hereinafter referred to as “the City”) to reduce the speed and/or volume of traffic through the modification of driver behavior in our neighborhoods. The goal of the Traffic Calming Policy is to maintain or improve safety and resident quality of life and livability by reducing the impact of vehicular traffic on residential neighborhood streets by modifying driver behavior through education, enforcement, and engineered traffic calming solutions.

### Committee Membership

The Traffic Calming Committee shall consist of nine members appointed, one each, by the Mayor and Aldermen for 3-year staggered terms. The committee members shall be educated on the traffic calming policy and the variety of measures that calm traffic. Furthermore, the nine-member committee shall elect a chairperson and Co-chairperson, each for a two-year term. Annual attendance for each appointed member shall be not less than 75 percent of the regularly scheduled committee meetings.

### I. Program Purpose:

The purpose of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) is to reduce accidents, traffic volumes and/or speeds; thereby improving pedestrian safety and creating more pleasant neighborhoods for the citizens of Savannah. Although neighborhood traffic concerns generally relate to excessive speed, pedestrian and bicycle safety, cut-through traffic, crashes, and general quality of life issues, this program recognizes the uniqueness of neighborhoods and that the critical issues and concerns vary from case to case.

The primary objective of the Traffic Engineering (TE) Department is to move vehicles in a safe manner. The purpose of this Traffic Calming Policy is to both support that objective and address other quality of life concerns as they relate to vehicular traffic in neighborhoods.

This Policy seeks to:

- Maintain or improve resident quality of life and neighborhood livability by reducing the impact of vehicular traffic on residential neighborhoods through reductions in traffic volumes and/or speed;
- Maintain or improve the safety and attractiveness of neighborhood streets for pedestrians and bicyclists;
- Ensure that permanent traffic calming measures are designed in conformance with sound engineering practices;
- Require citizen involvement in the application of the traffic calming program, from the initial request through implementation of selected device(s);
- Ensure that emergency vehicle access is preserved at levels that meet national response standards;
- Address speeding issues on one street with consideration of the effects to traffic on adjacent streets; and
- Effectively prioritize validated citizen traffic calming requests.

Our neighborhoods are as diverse as our streets. The citizens of Savannah understand that a balanced approach to traffic calming is necessary in order to select the most appropriate measure for a particular neighborhood and its streets. We recognize that a “one-device fits all” approach is not desirable and the program specifically encourages each neighborhood to develop a traffic calming solution that addresses their specific needs.

## **II. Implementation of the Traffic Calming Policy**

Implementation of the Traffic Calming Policy shall be via the Traffic Calming Committee (TCC), appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen and operating under the auspices and authority of the Bureau Chief of the Public Works and Water Resources Bureau. All requests for consideration must be submitted in writing to the TCC via Traffic Engineering.

### **A. Submission of Traffic Calming Requests**

Citizens may make requests for traffic calming to the TCC via City of Savannah Traffic Calming Request form. A minimum of one resident signature on the form is required, but additional space is provided for the signatures of multiple residents of a given area or neighborhood. (The Traffic Calming Request form is available online at [savannahga.gov](http://savannahga.gov) or can be obtained in hardcopy by calling 311 or contacting the City’s Traffic Engineering Department directly.)

### **B. Eligibility for Traffic Calming Projects**

The TCC will review the request to determine if the problem meets the eligibility requirements of this policy and whether or not traffic calming is likely to resolve the problem(s). Only residential streets with speed limits of 30 mph or less are eligible for traffic calming projects,

- a. Streets must be a minimum 1000’ in length and must have through interconnectivity
- b. Streets must not be a primary emergency response route or transit route
- c. Streets must not exceed 40’ in width

Valid requests will be forwarded to the Traffic Engineering Department for an initial evaluation. If a request does not meet eligibility requirements or is not likely to be solved through traffic calming the request will be denied and the petitioner(s) notified.

### **C. Evaluation of Traffic Calming Requests**

Following initial evaluation by the Traffic Engineering Department the TCC shall invite the petitioner(s), property owners, and/or residents in the project area to its next scheduled meeting to allow for feedback.

- a. The City’s neighborhood coordinators will provide assistance in getting information and meeting dates/times to the public as appropriate.
- b. The TCC will make a determination as to whether or not the request for traffic calming merits further consideration under this process.
- c. No further action shall be required under the City of Savannah Traffic Calming Program on issues that can be reasonably addressed by alternative solutions (e.g., low-cost engineering improvements, new signage or markings, expanded enforcement, etc.), or when eligibility requirements are not met.
- d. If the Committee determines that a request for traffic calming merits further consideration under the City of Savannah Traffic Calming Program, it shall request that the Traffic Engineering Department prepare a Traffic Calming Needs Assessment, with appropriate considerations given to the City’s Complete Streets policies, for presentation at the next regular meeting following its completion.

**D. Review of Needs Assessment and Final Recommendation**

- a. The Engineering Department will present the findings and engineering recommendations of its Traffic Calming Needs Assessment to the Traffic Calming Committee.
- b. Once again, the petitioner(s), project area property owners, and residents will be given advance notification of said presentation. The Committee may choose to hear additional public comment during this meeting.
- c. Upon review and discussion of the Needs Assessment, the TCC shall vote to “Recommend” or “Not Recommend” that the requested traffic calming project be placed on the City of Savannah’s Priority List of Traffic Calming Projects.
- d. Traffic calming requests for the identified project area<sup>1</sup> that receive a “Not Recommend” vote remain eligible for future consideration, but must wait (1) year before resubmission will be permitted.
- e. The Traffic Engineering Department will maintain a list of requested traffic calming projects on the City’s web-site and will update the status of each project not less than monthly.

**E. Appeal**

Citizens may appeal final recommendations made by the Traffic Calming Committee to the Mayor and Alderman. Appeals should be made directly to the Mayor and Aldermen.

**F. Traffic Calming Committee Meeting Procedures and Recommendations**

- a. The Traffic Calming Committee shall conform with all state laws relating to the posting of all meeting dates and times.
- b. The committee shall prepare minutes of each meeting held to include attendance and how each member voted and the results of all votes.
- c. All streets recommended by the Traffic Calming Committee for inclusion on the City of Savannah Priority List of traffic calming projects shall be posted on the City website at savannahga.gov.

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<sup>1</sup> The project area is defined as:

- A. Every parcel having frontage on the street proposed for traffic calming, and
- B. Every parcel on cross streets up to the next major intersecting street that must use a proposed traffic calmed street as its primary access.