

South Londonderry Township Traffic Calming Policy

Approved by the South Londonderry Board of Supervisors – January 6, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this Traffic Calming Policy is to guide the implementation of traffic calming measures within South Londonderry Township to enhance safety, improve the quality of life, and reduce vehicle speeds on local streets, particularly in residential areas. Such measures shall be specifically designed to reduce the speed, but not necessarily the volume, of motor vehicles in residential areas. This policy is aligned with the principles outlined in Pennsylvania's Traffic Calming Handbook (PUB 383) and aims to promote a collaborative approach to addressing traffic-related concerns.

Scope

This policy applies to all Township-owned roads within the jurisdiction of South Londonderry Township, particularly those classified as local roads and residential streets, where speeding and safety concerns are prevalent. It includes residential neighborhoods, school zones, and areas with high pedestrian activity.

Traffic Calming Goals

The primary goals of this policy are:

1. **Reduction of Vehicle Speeds:** To reduce vehicle speeds to safer levels, particularly in residential and pedestrian-intensive areas.
2. **Improve Safety:** To improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, reducing the likelihood of traffic accidents and injuries.
3. **Enhanced Livability:** To foster a more livable environment by reducing the negative impacts of high-speed traffic.
4. **Community Engagement:** To involve the community in the decision-making process regarding traffic calming solutions, ensuring that measures align with the needs of residents.

Procedure

Applicants may request that a study be conducted to implement traffic calming in a particular neighborhood. Requests shall be submitted in writing, along with a petition described below, to the Township Police and/or Township Manager for consideration and assessment.

A. Petition

1. All adult residents of the affected streets pursuant to Subsection A(2) below, must be contacted by the applicants and advised that traffic calming measures are being considered for their street.
 2. A signed petition must be submitted reflecting the support of a minimum of 80% of the residents of households on the street on which traffic calming measures are proposed to be installed and a minimum of 60% of the residents of households located on streets or cul-de-sacs whose only access is via the street on which humps are proposed to be installed.
 3. Only one adult signature per household, apartment or business will be considered on the petition.
- B. Notwithstanding whether or not a petition has been submitted under Subsection A, nothing herein shall limit the Township's right to unilaterally consider and install any traffic calming measures whatsoever, including but not limited to speed humps, bulb outs, chicanes, raised crosswalks, etc., as it may deem necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of a specific neighborhood or the public in general.

Process for Implementation

The implementation of traffic calming measures will follow a structured process:

1. Initial Request and Assessment

Traffic calming requests can be initiated by residents, neighborhood groups, or local authorities. An initial assessment will be conducted by the designated traffic authority to determine the need for further action.

2. Data Collection and Analysis

Data will be gathered through speed studies, traffic volume counts, and accident history reports. Community input and concerns will also be considered.

3. Public Engagement

A survey will be sent to the subject community to inform residents about the proposed measures and gather feedback. Community support is essential for the implementation of traffic calming solutions.

4. Pilot Program

Where appropriate, a pilot program using temporary structures (e.g., flexible delineators, recycled rubber) may be implemented to test the effectiveness of the proposed measures.

5. Evaluation

After the installation of traffic calming measures, data will be collected to evaluate their effectiveness. Adjustments may be made based on the results and further community input.

6. Long-Term Implementation

Permanent measures will be implemented based on the success of the pilot program, with careful consideration of costs, long-term maintenance, and community impact.

Traffic Calming Criteria

Traffic calming measures will be considered based on the following criteria to limit measures to areas they will be most effective and practical:

1. Traffic calming measures will not be considered on state-owned roadways.
2. Streets where the 85th percentile speed is at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit and the legally posted speed limit shall not exceed 35 miles per hour (mph) which shall be determined by a traffic study conducted and/or approved by the Township Engineer.
3. The minimum length of the street or portion thereof, measured from the nearest intersecting street, shall be at least 1,000 feet.
4. The average daily traffic (ADT) shall not be less than 1,000 vehicles per day, which shall be determined by a traffic study conducted and/or approved by the Township Engineer.
5. Locations with a history of traffic-related accidents will be assessed by The Township Engineer to determine the number of accidents on the affected roadway over the most recent three-year period and ascertain the extent to which excessive or unsafe speeds were a major contributing factor.
6. Requests from residents and neighborhood associations for traffic calming interventions, supported by a community consensus.
7. The feasibility of specific traffic calming measures will depend on road geometry, traffic volume, and surrounding infrastructure.
8. All traffic calming measures shall be designed and implemented in accordance with PennDOT Publication 383, Pennsylvania's Traffic Calming Handbook.

Funding and Maintenance

Funding for traffic calming measures will be sourced through local government budgets, state funding programs, grants, and other available resources. Maintenance of traffic calming measures will be an ongoing responsibility of the South Londonderry Township Highway Department, with funds allocated for periodic inspections and repairs.

Conclusion

This Traffic Calming Policy aligns with PennDOT's Traffic Calming Handbook and emphasizes a community-centered approach to improving road safety and livability. By focusing on data-driven decision-making, South Londonderry Township aims to foster safer, more pedestrian-friendly streets while balancing the needs of all road users.

This policy provides a comprehensive approach, from planning and public engagement to implementation and evaluation, ensuring that traffic calming measures are both effective and tailored to the community's needs.