



City of South Pasadena

Traffic-Calming Policy

The City of South Pasadena is committed to providing effective and efficient municipal services to our community while preserving the city's small town character. Part of that commitment is responding to residents who are concerned about traffic issues in their neighborhood.

Steps taken to moderate, mitigate, or alleviate traffic-related problems are referred to as traffic-calming measures. Traffic-calming measures range from increased enforcement by police, to such pavement markings as bike lanes, to installation of medians or chicanes. A STOP sign is not a traffic calming measure that will be reviewed as part of the Traffic-Calming Policy, there is a different processes concerning the installation of STOP signs.

The City's approach is one of common sense and fiscal restraint; this consists of an evaluation of the traffic issue to determine if City intervention is needed, and if intervention is needed, finding a cost-effective solution. Since traffic-calming measures can impact local residential neighborhoods, traffic-calming investigations will only be initiated after a degree of consensus is obtained from area residents. The City of South Pasadena Traffic-Calming Policy can be applied only to streets in the General Plan identified as local residential or collector streets.

Although it may not be possible to mitigate all traffic issues or implement every measure residents may desire, the City will take all concerns seriously and strive to prepare a prudent and appropriate response. If the investigation finds that traffic-calming measures are warranted, the City must prioritize to selectively implement identified traffic-calming measures due to budget constraints. It is the policy of the City of South Pasadena to process residents' concerns in the following manner:

Step 1: Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition Form to Initiate the Investigation of the Traffic Issue

To start the investigation for traffic-calming intervention, a requestor within the impacted area must complete and submit a "Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition" form, which is available at the Public Works Department or on the City's website, <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/forms.html>. This form must be deemed complete by staff and have the required number of signatures from residents in the investigation area. The required number of signatures will be no less than two thirds of the addresses within the impacted area, and could include any street(s) where staff determines there would be primary and/or secondary impacts.

South Pasadena Traffic Calming Policy

Step 2: City Investigation - Initial Review

Once the Traffic-Calming Investigation Form & Petition is complete, the City staff will investigate the request as stated in the Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition form. The Public Works Department will be the lead investigating department for traffic-calming request and will determine the best course of action to collect and analyze any traffic information the staff deems necessary to address the concerns outlined in the Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition form filed by the requestor.

After the initial review by City staff, if it appears there is a verifiable problem justifying City intervention and the use of City resources, the process proceeds to Step 3.

OR

If there is no verifiable evidence that the problem needs City intervention, the City will send a letter to the contact person identified on the Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition form, so stating and the process ends.

Step 3: Implementation of Initial Traffic Calming Measures

Due to the cost and the need to study the possible effects from implementation of traffic-calming measures, less expensive and less intrusive measures will typically be utilized first that directly address the concern(s) expressed in the Traffic-Calming Investigation Request & Petition form. Less intrusive initial measures can include enforcement of traffic laws, the potential use of temporary real time speed indicators, among others. If these initial traffic-calming endeavors are not effective, more intrusive and permanent measure can be investigated, based upon Step 4.

Step 4: Implementation of Advanced Traffic-Calming Measures

After the implementation of initial traffic-calming measures, if City staff determines that the initial traffic-calming measures were not effective, a Traffic Engineering consultant can review the traffic concern and write a report outlining recommendations to address the issue. The report will be reviewed by the Public Works Department staff, who will determine if the proposed traffic-calming measure can be captured reasonably within existing budgets. During that determination, staff will also determine if the matter needs to go to the City Council. The following are reasons why a traffic-calming matter would be brought to the City Council:

- Costs cannot be covered by the existing City budget as determined by staff
- If recommendations will have impacts on a larger area
- If the solutions substantially change the character of the street
- If the solutions are controversial
- If a majority of the petitioners do not agree with staff recommendations