



Adams County Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who do I contact with my concerns?

Adams County Public Works staff are responsible for the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program can be reached at 720-523-6875 or by email at [PWTraffic@adco.gov.org](mailto:PWTraffic@adco.gov).

2. What is the program and how does it work?

The Traffic Calming program is Adams County's approach to addressing concerns regarding vehicle speeds and volumes in neighborhoods. The approach utilizes four elements, including education, enforcement and code compliance, Tier 1 Visual, and Tier 2 Physical. The elements are applied to concerns in a phased, and if needed, escalating plan of action meaning that educational outreach is completed before more complex and costly elements are considered.

The Tier 1 and Tier 2 elements require some level of data collection and evaluation to determine the most appropriate course of action, and if needed prioritization of projects. The implementation of Tier 2 physical measures (such as speed tables) requires strong neighborhood support.

3. How do I know if my neighborhood/street is eligible for calming elements?

All neighborhoods in Adams County are eligible for the Educational elements in the traffic calming program. A review of specific concerns and data evaluation will identify whether additional elements such as visual tools (striping, driver feedback) or physical tools (such as speed tables) can be considered for a specific roadway. (Note that major regional roadways known as arterials are not eligible for physical calming elements) Visit <https://adco.gov.org/traffic-safety> or contact Adams County staff for more information.

4. Is there a cost to the program or do neighborhoods have to pay for calming measures?

There is no cost to the residents for the application or implementation of any traffic calming features. If more applications for physical construction elements are approved than funding is present for implementation, a prioritization process is used to determine which projects are constructed first.

5. Can a STOP sign be added to slow people down?

This is a common request. STOP signs are traffic control devices and are not speed control devices. Therefore, STOP signs are not appropriate for use as a traffic calming tool. When STOP signs are installed as a 'nuisance' or 'speed breaker', studies have shown that unwarranted STOP signs result in poor compliance (i.e. motorists can sense that the sign is unneeded and will tend to disregard it). This creates a safety hazard at the intersection and may result in motorists speeding up between STOP signs to make up for lost time.

If you believe that a STOP sign is needed for traffic control, contact Adams County staff at 720-523-6875 or by email at PWTraffic@adco.gov.org and the request will be evaluated separately from the traffic calming program.

6. How are speed limits set and can the speed limit be reduced?

Speed limits are set on a variety of factors. Local roadways are set at a standard 25 mph, and school zones at 20 mph. Roadways that carry more volume than residential or local streets are set based on a variety of factors including type of road, number of lanes, curvature, slope, adjacent land use, and the prevailing speed (the speed under which most people travel). The overall purpose of the County's calming program is to cause vehicular traffic to slow down to meet the existing speed limit in a residential area.

Requests to reduce the existing speed limit will be evaluated separately from the calming program. Note that studies show that most motorists drive at the speed that they consider safe and reasonable. Arbitrarily lowering the speed limit without consistent enforcement has little effect on travel speeds. An engineering study can be completed to determine whether the posted speed limit is appropriate.

7. Can we get speed limit signs posted in our neighborhood?

Speed limit signs are one item in the toolbox of options for Tier 1 Visual Elements. Upon request, Adams County staff will evaluate whether the installation of speed limit signs is appropriate.

8. Can crosswalks be painted?

Painted crosswalks are most effective when they are placed in locations where pedestrians are present. An overuse of crosswalks in locations with few pedestrians results in driver expectancy of no pedestrians, and subsequent lack of awareness for them. A crosswalk evaluation through an engineering data driven study can determine whether crosswalk striping is appropriate.

9. Can we get a speed bump?

The Adams County calming program is set up to be implemented in a phased, and if needed, escalating plan of action. The intent is to undertake an education effort and visual calming tools in a neighborhood to raise awareness before considering the higher cost, disruptive, permanent, and at times oppositional physical devices such as speed bumps (or speed tables). If the concerns persist, and the Public Works Department has completed an evaluation that indicates the roadway is a good candidate for bumps, then the neighborhood must reach a consensus through a petition process that shows the majority of the neighborhood in support of the bumps before installation will occur.

10. Who is eligible to sign a petition for speed tables or other physical calming elements?

Only one signature per household will count towards the signature requirement in a petition. For townhomes or apartments, one signature per unit counts.

11. Who determines the petition area?

Adams County staff will determine the area for the petition. It will generally include the properties most affected by the proposed physical elements.

12. Do signers of a petition need to be property owners, or can they be renters?

The petition can be signed by either an owner or a renter. Only one signature per property is allowed. If an owner and a renter have known differing views on the petition, the owner's signature (or lack thereof) will be valid.

13. What if the petition process is not successful?

The petition process for Tier 2 Physical elements can be completed anytime within one (1) year of the petition materials being provided by the Adams County staff to the neighborhood. If a petition is turned in without adequate community consensus (majority support), the sponsors of the petition will be notified. They can continue to gather additional signatures until the needed signatures are gathered, or until the petition is 12 months old. If the petition is not successful, the neighborhood is referred to the Tier 1 or Educational elements of the calming program. A new petition can be attempted after a one year waiting period.

14. Are traffic calming programs effective?

Based on a thorough synthesis of similar programs along the front range, the answer is yes. However, the effectiveness depends on the measures that are implemented and the degree to which the neighborhood is willing to support the program (through education, awareness, community encouragement to slow down, and support for physical mitigation measures).

15. Do traffic calming programs make neighborhood streets safer?

Thankfully, reported traffic crashes along local neighborhood streets are relatively infrequent. Therefore, it can be difficult to pinpoint a measurable reduction in crashes due to a calming program. However, vehicle speeds affect the quality of life for adjacent residents, and significantly impact the sense of safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. A successful calming program can improve livability and level of comfort within a neighborhood.

16. If an approved project is delayed due to funding limitations and other higher priorities, can a neighborhood pay for the installation to complete it sooner?

No. All construction related to the traffic calming program will be completed with County funding. To maintain an equitable approach across the County, neighborhoods are not required to fund any improvements, nor are they allowed to fund improvements in order to get to the top of the list.