

**City of Ashland Pilot Traffic Calming and Safety
Improvement Program**



Acknowledgements

City of Ashland Council

Mayor John Stromberg

Dennis Slattery

Rich Rosenthal

Stef Seffinger

Tonya Graham

Julie Akins

Stephen Jensen

City of Ashland Transportation Commission

Bruce Borgerson

Derrick Claypool-Barnes

Corrine Vievielle

Joseph Graf

Linda Peterson Adams

Katharine Danner

Mark Brouillard

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Section 1: Introduction

Section 1.1 Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program Overview

The City of Ashland’s Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program is part of the City’s commitment to the safety and livability of our neighborhoods and shall incorporate the goals, policies and objectives of the City’s comprehensive plan. A collaborative effort of City staff, the Transportation Commission and residents, the program is designed to reduce the impacts of traffic and provide for a safe roadway network for all users. Through active participation by area residents, the City can identify the problem, plan the approach, implement solutions and evaluate the effectiveness.

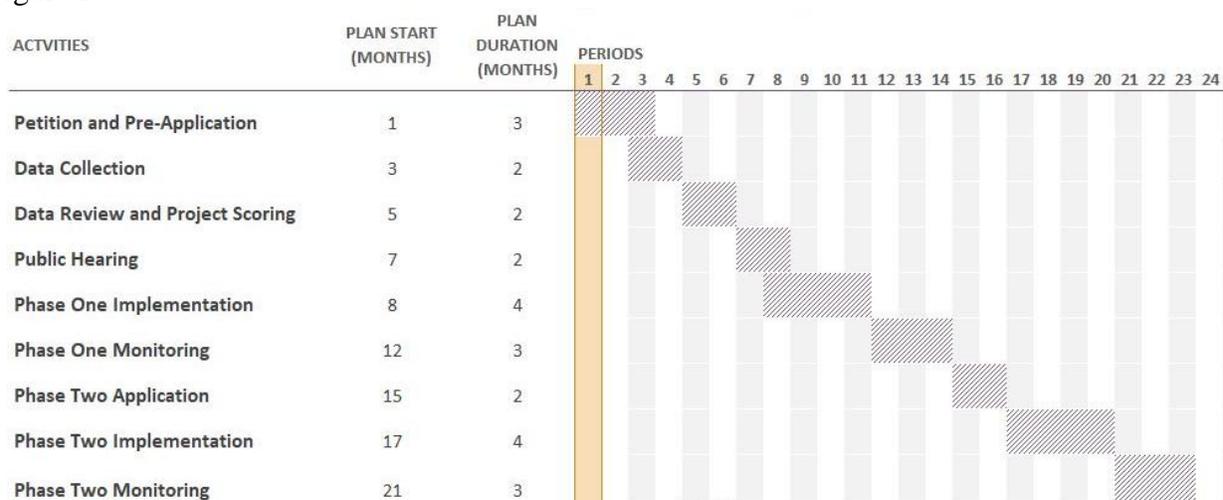
The program is open to all roadways within the City and works in two distinct phases. The initial phase focuses on data collection along with passive and easily implementable measures such as law enforcement, radar speed trailer placement and temporary signage. If phase one does not prove effective in meeting the defined goals for traffic calming or safety improvement, then a project can move to phase two. Phase two calls for engineering and construction of permanent physical treatments to address the defined problem.

Section 1.2 Program Timelines

Figure 1 shows the general timeline for activities for the City’s Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program. Overall timeline can be affected by staff availability and scheduling of public meetings.

Cumulative duration shown here is the anticipated maximum. If prior phases are completed earlier in the duration window given, then subsequent steps also could be completed earlier.

Figure 1:



Section 2: Project Request and Review Process

Section 2.1: Petition & Pre-application Process

The petition and pre-application process are meant to create neighborhood support for potential Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program implementation within a neighborhood or project area. The petition and pre-application forms are attached as Appendix A.

The petition and pre-application require a minimum of five (5) adult signatures* from distinct addresses within the neighborhood showing they are in favor of entering into the Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Program. The application also requires summary details of the issues encountered within the neighborhood.

Once a verified petition is submitted to Public Works Engineering, the City will define the initial study area and begin data collection. After data collection is complete, the City will move forward with targeted enforcement, speed trailer placement and distribution of temporary yard signage if requested.

The study area will initially be influenced by street system configuration, location of schools, hospitals, and/or business centers. Data collection within the study area will include review of accident reports and capturing speed and traffic volumes.

*Signature must be from resident who has property rights control over distinct address.

Section 2.2: Phase One Immediate Actions

After data collection is completed, and the data shows some measures are warranted, the City will move forward with two directly implementable soft measures for traffic calming. The two items below represent passive traffic calming measures that will be implemented after a successful traffic calming petition is verified by Public Works.

Radar Speed Trailer

The Ashland Police Department can place a portable trailer mounted radar unit that detects vehicular speed and displays it on a digital reader board. The trailer shows the drivers actual speed vs. the posted speed limit. The unit employed by the City of Ashland also collects driver speeds and volumes that can be compared to the previously collected information.



Police Enforcement

After data collection phase is completed the Ashland Police Department can use the information collected to perform targeted enforcement within study area during known times of excessive speed.



Temporary Speed Signage

The City offers free of charge “keep kids alive drive 25” temporary yard signs. The signs can be picked up at 51 Winburn Way at the Community Development Building. A total of five signs will be given to residents for each block/neighborhood request.



Section 2.3: Phase Two Project Ranking and Acceptance

The City of Ashland has established criteria for phase two improvements that must be met to proceed forward. Data from the collection phase will be used to score and rank the project.

Criteria	Definition	Value	Points
Average Daily Traffic (ADT)	Traffic volume over a 24-hour period	<500	0
		500-1000	1
		1000-1500	2
		1500-2000	3
		2000-3000	4
		>3000	5
Posted speed limit 25 MPH-residential 85% Threshold	The speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions. This is considered what roadway users	1-5	2
		5-10	4
		10+	6

	consider to be a safe travel speed based on roadway conditions		
Accidents	Number of reported accidents, correctable by traffic calming on the project street within the last 5 years	1	2
		2	4
		3	6
		4	8
		>5	10

A total score of 8 points is required to move forward with any phase two solution.

For continued evaluation as part of phase 2 ranking and implementation, other factors may be considered including, but not limited to, the following:

Pedestrian Generators	Public and private facilities on or near the project street, such as schools, parks, community houses, senior housing, etc., which generate a substantial amount of pedestrian traffic
Bus Stops	Access to transit within ¼ mile of project street
Sidewalks	Existing facilities
Bicycle Facilities	Existing Facilitates

Section 2.4: Phase Two “Neighborhood Meeting”

If the City of Ashland receives numerous traffic calming program applications during any budget biennium, each application will be ranked and phase one data assessed to determine project prioritization. Phase two work begins once projects are ranked and the need for traffic calming and safety improvements is verified. Public Works will verify if the minimum criteria are met to proceed forward with any phase two actions. If the project fails to meet the minimum established criteria it will not move forward to phase two, but the City will still place the radar speed trailer onsite perform periodic targeted enforcement and offer free temporary speed signs.

To move forward with any phase two improvements the minimum scoring based on the established criteria shall be 8 points.

After projects are prioritized public meetings will be scheduled at a regular Transportation Commission meeting starting with the highest priority project. Resident support for a traffic calming and safety program is inherent to its success. To develop full support and consensus on project goals and potential solutions, the public hearing will be held by the Transportation Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting where goals and solutions will be discussed and agreed upon. The public hearing will consist of a report prepared by Engineering staff, public input from neighborhood residents and discussion by the Commission. Based on all information provided and discussion The Commission can recommend to the Director of Public Works potential phase two solutions for implementation. A majority of phase 2 solutions have budget ramifications that must be accounted for in the timing and approval of solutions.

Section 3.0: Phase Two

After completion of the data collection phase and immediate implementable actions have been enacted, the City and Transportation Commission will rank all projects in the program and schedule public hearings with neighborhood groups to discuss the potential of phase two actions. A clear set of goals with respect to traffic calming actions should be established in the public meeting, which will enable the pursuit of solutions that match with defined goals. Phase two installations can be considered “pilot” or final in-place solutions depending on the evolution of phase two.

The following phase two measures are listed in general order of cost and difficulty of implementation. Some measures could be implemented in the near term using available funds in the current Public Works budget. Other measures, particularly those requiring significant changes to the roadway, will be implemented only if initial measures fail to calm traffic, and may require inclusion in future budgets as a capital improvement project.

Traffic Safety Campaign

An information letter is prepared by the City and mailed to residents within the study area. The letter explains traffic volumes and speeds captured during data collection. The informational packet will also contain traffic calming features, traffic laws and bicycle and pedestrian safety information. The goal is to heighten traffic safety awareness within the project area.



Vegetation and Vision Clearance

Removal of vegetation that obscures sight lines or traffic control signage, creating a hazardous situation, shall be considered as a phase two improvement. Removal shall be done by either homeowners or City staff depending on property ownership.



Signage

The addition of appropriate signage shall be considered, including additional speed limit signs, parking restrictions, and pedestrian and bicyclist informational signs.



Pavement Markings

The addition of pavement markings shall be considered. Markings can include centerlines, fog lines, identification of crossings and speed limits.



Intersection Painting

The City of Ashland has a permit approval process for intersection street painting on low volume residential roadways. Painted intersections help create a community identity and are a great way to organize your neighbors around a common goal. They may also have indirect effects on helping to slow traffic in your neighborhood by making drivers aware that residents take pride in their neighborhood, encouraging them to be more respectful while driving down your street.



Curb Extensions

Curb extensions visually and physically narrow the roadway, creating safer and shorter crossings for pedestrians while increasing the available space for street furniture, benches, plantings, and street trees. Curb extensions may be implemented on downtown, neighborhood, and residential streets, large and small.

Curb extensions have multiple applications and may be segmented into various sub-categories, ranging from traffic calming to bus bulbs and midblock crossings.





(NACTO Image)

In Street Speed Reduction Measures

Median

Medians create a pinchpoints for traffic in the center of the roadway and can reduce pedestrian crossing distances.

Median refuge islands are protected spaces placed in the center of the street to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian crossings. Crossings of two-way streets are facilitated by allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to navigate only one direction of traffic at a time. Medians configured to protect cycle tracks can both facilitate crossings and function as two-stage turn queue boxes.



(NACTO Image)

Pinchpoints

Chokers or pinchpoints restrict motorists from operating at high speeds on local streets and significantly expand the sidewalk realm for pedestrians.

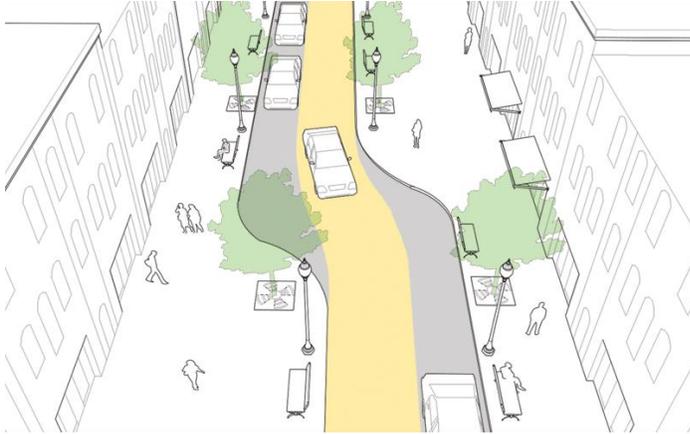


(NACTO Image)

Chicane

Offset curb extensions on residential or low volume downtown streets create a chicane effect that slows traffic speeds considerably. Chicanes increase the amount of public space available on a corridor and can be activated using benches, bicycle parking, and other amenities.

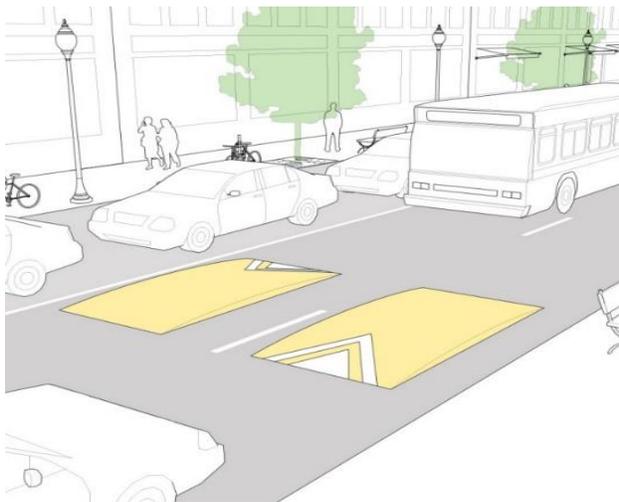
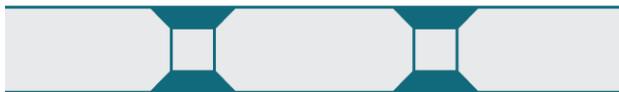




(NACTO Image)

Speed Hump/Cushion

Speed cushions are either speed humps or speed tables that include wheel cutouts to allow large vehicles to pass unaffected, while reducing passenger car speeds. They can be offset to allow unimpeded passage by emergency vehicles and are typically used on key emergency response routes. Speed cushions extend across one direction of travel from the centerline, with longitudinal gap provided to allow wide wheel base vehicles to avoid going over the hump.

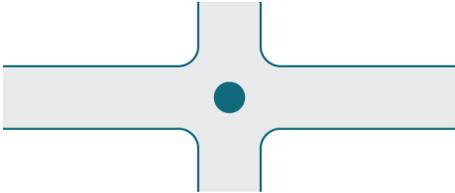


(NACTO Image)

Roundabout/Traffic Circle

Mini roundabouts and neighborhood traffic circles¹ lower speeds at minor intersection crossings and are an ideal treatment for uncontrolled intersections.

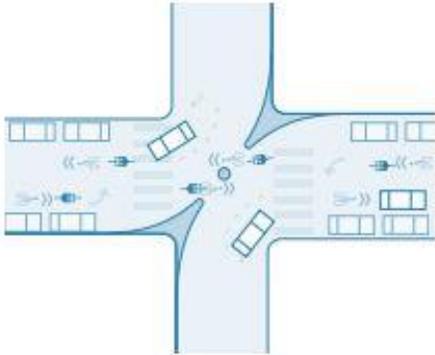
Mini roundabouts may be installed using simple markings or raised islands but are best applied in conjunction with plantings that beautify the street and the surrounding neighborhood. Careful attention should be paid to the available lane width and turning radius used with traffic circles.



(NACTO Image)

Diverters

A traffic diverter breaks up the street grid, requiring motor vehicles to turn while allowing passage for pedestrians and bicyclists.



(NACTO Image)

Gateway Treatments

Curb extensions are often applied at the mouth of an intersection. When installed at the entrance to a residential or low speed street, a curb extension is referred to as a “gateway” treatment and is intended to mark the transition to a slower speed street.



(NACTO Image)

Stationary Radar Signs

A radar speed sign is an interactive sign that displays vehicle speed as motorists approach. The purpose of radar speed signs is to slow cars down by making drivers aware when they are driving at speeds above the posted limits. They are used as a traffic calming device in addition to or instead of physical devices such as speed humps, speed cushions, speed tables, and speed bumps.



Other

As transportation network solutions evolve so to can traffic calming and safety improvements. Other solutions may be brought to light during the analysis and public hearings that can be implemented and will not be disregarded if not specifically mentioned within this document.

Monitoring

After approved phase one activities have been implemented the City will monitor changes in driver behavior including speed and accident reduction. The monitoring phase will begin 4-6 months after the end of phase one activities.

The City and Ashland and its Transportation Commission would like to thank the National Association of Transportation Officials (NACTO) for allowing the use of some images contained within this document.

Appendixes

Appendix A: Petition & Pre-application

Petition to Initiate Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

Location: _____

A resident of _____ has requested initiation of the City of Ashland Traffic Calming program to address concerns of _____ on _____. In order to begin the process, this petition must be signed by at least 5 adult citizens representing separate properties on _____ between _____ and _____. This level of neighborhood support is needed to justify data collection, analysis, and development of a traffic calming plan.

Please sign the attached petition, include your address and telephone number, and indicate whether you support (yes) or oppose (no) this proposal. If this petition receives the necessary neighborhood support, the City of Ashland staff will collect data about traffic conditions in the identified area for use in developing a Proposed Improvement Plan.

Printed name:	Phone:		
Address:	Support	Oppose	
Signature:		Date:	

Printed name:	Phone:		
Address:	Support	Oppose	
Signature:		Date:	

Printed name:	Phone:		
Address:	Support	Oppose	
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