

COPLEY TOWNSHIP

TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

2021

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this Traffic Calming Policy (TCP) is to enhance both the safety and quality of life within residential neighborhoods. This can be achieved by one or more of the following:

- Education: Increase awareness of residents in the neighborhoods through the use of newspaper articles, flyers, where there may be traffic safety concerns such as excessive speeds, non-local (cut-through) traffic, and accidents.
- Enforcement: Encourage compliance with speed limits on local streets through speed-reducing tactics provided by the Copley Township Police Department, which include, but are not limited to, traditional enforcement and the use of radar speed signs.
- Engineering: Evaluate the affected streets for speeding, total volume, non-local traffic, and the number of accidents to determine if traffic-calming is warranted.

Goals and Objectives of this Policy

Copley Township strives to ensure overall safety, protect its neighborhoods, and enhance the quality of life for its residents. Traffic that is traveling at improper speeds and non-local, or cut-through traffic that is consistently using residential streets can affect a neighborhood's livability, including pedestrian and bicyclist activities.

Copley Township's Traffic Calming Policy was developed to guide township officials and inform residents about the processes and procedures for implementing traffic calming on residential streets. Under this policy, township officials will work with residents to identify traffic problems in their neighborhoods to seek appropriate solutions.

Citizen participation is an important part of all traffic calming projects. The township's goal is to give the people who live in the project area the opportunity to become actively involved in the planning and decision-making process.

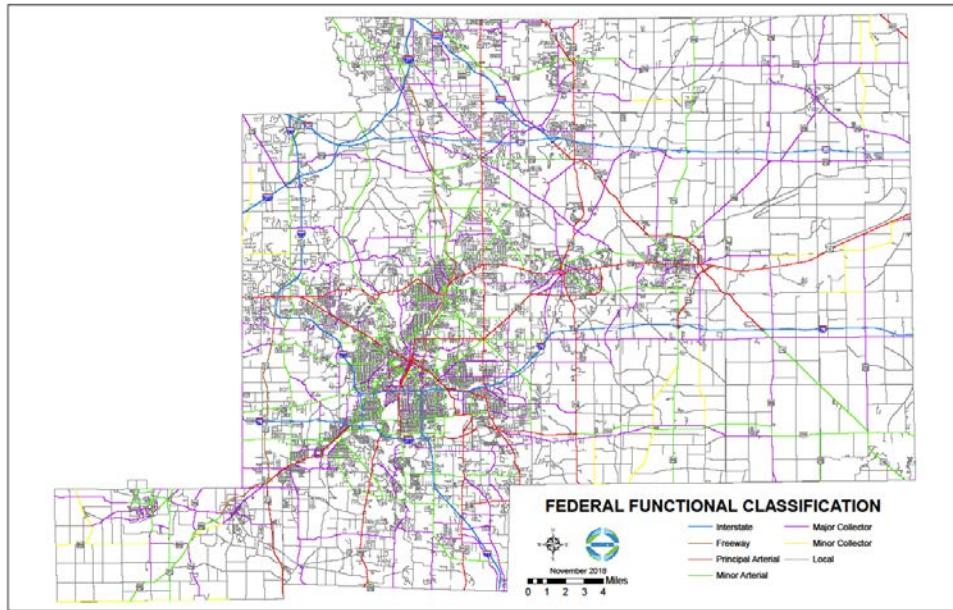
However, implementing traffic-calming measures on every street is not always the answer. Each neighborhood or individual street may have its own unique set of problems that must be analyzed to identify solutions. Copley's neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy is designed to serve as a guide for Township staff and residents throughout the traffic-calming study, planning, and implementation processes.

Streets to be addressed by this policy

Only dedicated Copley Township streets will be covered under this policy. Classification of the dedicated streets will be per the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) Federal Functional Classification Map. All dedicated streets in Copley Township

are classified as Local and appear in the map below colored gray. Copley Township does not have jurisdiction on county or state highways colored red, green, and blue. Any requests received from residents for traffic calming concerning a county or state highway will be forwarded to their respective offices.

AMATS Federal Functional Classification Map



Copley Township



The goal of this policy is to affect driver behavior to improve safety and the quality of life for residents, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. This is to be balanced with providing streets that do not hinder quick response times for emergency service vehicles including fire trucks and ambulances, police cars, and streets accessible by large vehicles, such as school buses, delivery vehicles, and trucks used for essential township services.

Initiation

All streets will be evaluated by street segment, if applicable. A segment is that portion of the street that lies between two thoroughfares or intersecting streets. Each segment will be studied to determine the most effective location for the traffic calming measure. Segments of streets that dead end into a cul-de-sac will not be evaluated.

Processing, Evaluation, and Prioritization

The process, evaluation, and prioritization are designed to provide a consistent process through which residents can request traffic-calming measures within neighborhoods. This program requires a great deal of commitment as active citizen participation is the key to all traffic-calming project objectives. Neighborhood representatives may include Homeowner Association officers or other residents of the neighborhood willing to act as a liaison between township and the neighborhood. Experience in other communities has shown traffic-calming projects without strong neighborhood participation is frequently unsuccessful, requiring the removal of some or all measures. This involvement instills a sense of ownership in the project once the traffic-calming measures are installed.

Step 1 – Education and Enforcement

Before requesting the Township to commence a study of a neighborhood, residents should first pursue all of the following neighborhood speed-reduction options with the Copley Police Department. Police enforcement has shown that the frequent offenders of speed limits in neighborhoods are the residents themselves; therefore, education and enforcement efforts are quite effective. Complaints of speeding problems may be reported to the Copley Police Department at 330-666-8866.

Step 2 – Submitting a Request

A resident or township personnel may submit a written request to the Township Administrator who will then forward the request to the Copley Police Chief and Service Director. Police Department and Service Department will review the request initially to verify it is a dedicated township street.

Step 3 – Collection of Data

If the street in the petition has been verified as a dedicated township street, collection of data may begin to determine if the street may be a candidate for traffic calming methods.

Step 4 - Upon recommendation of the Police Chief and Service Director, the Board of Trustees will authorize placement of the speed table.

Step 5 – Service Department Location Review

If the required neighborhood approval is obtained, a location review will be performed by the Service Director as to the final location of the traffic calming measure. Markers designating the exact location will be installed for the residents to review. Markers will include wooden stakes and pavement markings. Residents of that segment of street will have the opportunity to comment on the location before the installation.

Allowable Traffic Calming Measures

There is a range of tools to control traffic speeds and reduce volumes, each with its associated costs, benefits and rules for proper application. The following is a list of measures that may be considered in the development of a neighborhood traffic calming plan.

- Education – news articles, flyers, door-knockers
- Speed monitoring – traditional Police enforcement
- Mobile radar speed displays
- Pavement markings
- Physical changes to the street

All traffic calming measures utilized shall be in compliance with the regulations of the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) and the Ohio Department of Transportation Location and Design Manual. OMUTCD Section 2B.04 (05) states Yield and Stop signs should not be used for speed control. In addition, national and statewide traffic studies have shown that Children at Play signs are not effective in increasing a driver's attention to the point of reducing vehicle speeds. In fact, placement of these signs can increase the potential for accidents by conveying to children and parents that the area is safe for children. Because of this, Copley Township no longer installs these signs.

Appeal Process

If residents on the affected street decide against the Township's recommended action, and the traffic calming measure has been installed, a request must be made by 75% of the addresses on the street to the Township Board of Trustees. If the Trustees approve of the removal of the traffic calming measure, and it has been in place less than three (3) years since the date of installation, the removal will be at the expense of the residents.

Funding

There may be insufficient funding to keep up with requests for traffic calming measures. As such, recommended measures may be installed on funding availability during the fiscal year. There will necessarily be a limited amount of Township funding available for traffic calming projects and prioritization will be established to compete for limited funding.

Project Selection

In many cases, several neighboring streets have similar speeding or traffic problems. Implementing traffic calming on one street can cause the problem to get worse on other streets, or create traffic problems where there were not significant problems before.

Therefore, traffic calming projects will often need to include several streets in the same area. Some flexibility in selecting projects from the prioritized list will be necessary in order to accommodate appropriate grouping of streets. With limited annual funding, residents or homeowner associations may elect to pay for 100% of the purchase and installation costs via a petition to implement a low priority project faster, provided the other priority projects remain on the schedule.

Example of a Resident Petition for Traffic Calming



Copley Township Traffic Calming Petition

Name of Petitioner _____

Address of Petitioner _____

Phone Number of Petitioner _____

Email of Petitioner _____

Date Submitted _____

Petition Title _____

Petition Explanation

Full Name (Print)	Address	Signature

I, _____ (Petitioner) attest that I witnessed the signature of every resident listed on this petition.

Petitioner Signature _____

Please submit the completed petition to:

Copley Township Board of Trustees
1540 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road
Copley, Ohio 44321
RE: Traffic Calming Petition