



Traffic Calming Policy

DRAFT

June 1, 2024

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Introduction

The Perry Township Traffic Calming (Policy) represents the continual effort and commitment of Perry Township to improve the safety and quality of life for our residents. This policy is designed to provide a process through which residents can request traffic calming measures within their neighborhood. Further, the Policy provides a process for identifying and addressing problems related to speeding and traffic volumes on our residential streets.

Perry Township Police Department receives frequent complaints regarding speeding vehicles on our residential streets. Enforcement of the speed limit by the Perry Township Police Department is the most effective means for reducing speeds; however, limited resources do not allow enforcement on a regular basis. To overcome this problem the township started installing speed radar signs on our neighborhood's main streets. Speed radar signs or speed limit reminder signs are activated by speeding vehicles and will display the vehicle's speed, prompting the driver to check and correct their speed. The Speed radar signs provide key data to quantify speeding problems. This allows the Perry Police department the ability to intelligently deploy limited police staff for speed enforcement. The policy is focusing on alternative neighborhood traffic calming measures, specifically the installation of speed humps.

Through this Policy, property owners become actively involved in the decision-making process on traffic calming projects involving their neighborhood.

Speed Hump Installation Guidelines

General

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the application of speed humps.

Speed humps are elongated mounds installed across the pavement. Individual designs may vary slightly, but typically they are approximately 3-4 inches high, parabolic in shape and between 12 and 14 feet in length. The profile of a 3-inch-high speed hump is gentle enough to provide a comfortable ride when traversed at a speed of approximately 20-25 mph. At high speeds, it becomes more uncomfortable for motorists to drive over the speed humps. To reduce speeds over a longer distance, several speed humps can be installed.

Advantages:

- Speed reduction for vehicles without increasing accident rates.
- Less need for additional enforcement.
- Possible reduction in cut-through traffic.
- Provides visual reinforcement to discourage speeding.

Disadvantages:

- Emergency response time will be affected. Such that an ambulance or a fire truck loses as much as 10 seconds while passing over a speed hump. For this reason, speed bumps are not recommended on emergency vehicle routes.
- Potential increased noise due to vehicle braking and accelerating and the vibration of loose items in truck beds or trailers.
- May impede bicyclists due to the changes in vertical grades.
- Requires additional signage and pavement markings.
- Motorcycles may bypass the speed humps via drainage gutters or berms without slowing.
- Impact roadway drainage.
- Impede snow removal.

Research has shown that speed humps are effective in safely reducing speed along a roadway. For speed humps to be effective, their placement should follow established engineering criteria as provided by the Franklin County Engineer's Office. As is the case with all traffic calming devices, proper installation will encourage compliance and safe driving practices. This policy provides criteria and procedures for installation of safe and effective speed humps.

Street Eligibility Requirements

All the following criteria should be satisfied for a street to be considered eligible for review and study for possible speed hump installation.

- 1) The project street shall not have more than one traffic lane in each direction.
- 2) The project street shall have a regulatory speed limit of 25 mph.
- 3) The project street must be under the authority of and be maintained by Perry Township and Franklin County.
- 4) The project street is not a cul-de-sac.
- 5) The project street is not designated as a primary emergency response route.

Request for Review

Request – If the Property Owners of a residential street want consideration for the installation of speed humps, they shall submit a written traffic calming request (Exhibit A) to the Township Administrator for review to determine street eligibility.

Verification – A verification statement is included as part of the Request and must be signed by the applicant confirming the signatures on the request are valid and represent twenty five percent (25%) of those property owners whose property is adjacent to the eligible street.

Preliminary Township Review

If a street is determined eligible for review, the township will initiate a study that determines if the street meets the minimum criteria for vehicular speed and volume. This review by the Township will be completed within three months of the request (barring mitigating circumstances) and shall confirm that:

- a) The minimum speed criterion is that the 85th percentile of speed shall be at least 6 mph over the posted speed limit.

Speed Distribution/85th Percentile Speed – Speed distribution is the arrangement of speed values showing their observed frequency of occurrence. The 85th percentile speed is defined as the speed at or below which 85 percent of free-flowing vehicles are traveling. Conversely, this means that only 15 percent of traffic is traveling faster than the 85th percentile speed.

- b) The average volume shall be at least 300 vehicles per hour during peak hours.

Project Approval / Disapproval

If, after the initial study, it is determined the street qualifies for speed hump installation, the request shall move forward under Ohio Revised Code 5571.07, Petition by Landowner. Under 5571.07, a majority vote of two or more Trustees is required to move the request to the petition phase outlined in the Speed Hump Implementation Process.

If the street qualifies, the Township Administrator shall provide a Project Petition Packet to the Qualifying Applicant. The packet shall include the traffic calming petition and the preliminary estimate associated with the design and installation of the speed humps. If the street does not qualify for speed humps installation, the Township Administrator will notify the Applicant in writing and the request will be closed. If a request is denied, a new request for that street cannot be submitted earlier than 1-year (365 days) from the date of this application.

SPEED HUMP IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Project Petition Process

Upon receiving the Project Petition Packet, the Qualifying Applicant shall proceed to complete the Petition and submit the Petition to The Township Administrator. The following items shall be completed prior to submitting the Petition to the Township Administrator:

- a) The Qualifying Applicant must reside at a property adjacent to the eligible street.
- b) The Petition shall be signed by fifty one percent (51%) of the properties adjacent to the eligible street. In the case where there is more than one owner of the property, all property owners' signatures are required for the property address to be represented in the petition.
- c) Each property owner who signs the Petition shall acknowledge their willingness to pay their proportionate share of the project design and installation cost for the speed humps as stated in the Petition.
- d) The completed Petition must be returned to the Township Administrator within three (3) months of the date the packet is sent to the Applicant. If the deadline is not met, the township will cancel the project.

Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Design standards and installation procedures for speed humps and related features such as signs and pavement marking shall be prepared by either the Franklin County Engineers or an approved traffic design engineering firm. The construction of speed humps will be administered by Perry Township. Optional beautification upgrades such as signage, landscaping, and the use of brick paver may be included providing the upgrades are completely paid for by the property owners. If the property owners choose to proceed with the beautification upgrades, it is understood by all parties that the full cost of the maintenance, repair and the replacement shall also be completely paid for by the property owners.

Property owners whose property is adjacent to the street with speed humps shall be assessed one hundred percent (100%) of the maintenance cost related to speed bump repairs, pavement marking, and sign replacement.

The Perry Township Road Department shall maintain the speed humps and all related features.

Cost Responsibility

One hundred percent (100%) of the cost for speed hump installation (including humps, signs, pavement markings, maintenance, and if necessary, special features) shall be the financial responsibility of the property owners whose property is adjacent to the eligible street.

Funding

In accordance with ORC 5573.07, the Township will assess one hundred percent (100%) of the cost to install and maintain to the property owners whose property is adjacent to the eligible street.

Speed Hump Installation

Upon final approval of the petition and the allocation of funds, the speed hump(s) will be installed as scheduling permits within the current fiscal year (Jan 1st – Dec 31st). The construction of the speed hump(s) and the placement of any signs and markings will conform to the current design standards as established by the Franklin County Engineer's Office and the standard signs used in the residential subdivision.

Speed Hump Removal or Alteration

The process for speed hump alteration or removal request by the Property Owners of the street is the same as the process for installation, except one hundred percent (100%) of the cost shall be the responsibility of the Property Owners who petition to have the speed humps altered or removed. A petition for the alteration or removal of speed humps shall require the signature of at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the Property Owners adjacent to the street in question. Those signing the Petition for alteration or removal of speed humps are acknowledging their willingness to pay their proportionate share of removing or altering the speed humps. In accordance with ORC 5573.07, the Township will assess one hundred percent (100%) of the cost to remove or alter to the property owners whose sign the petition to remove or alter the speed humps.

Exhibit B - TRAFFIC CALMING PETITION FORM

Project Street: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Number: _____ Mobil Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

I, _____ (applicant) Certify that the information provided in the Petition Packet is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant Signature: _____

We, the undersigned hereby petition for speed humps to be constructed on _____ between _____ and _____ according to the Perry Township Traffic Calming Policy.

The Project, including upgrades (if any), is estimated to cost \$ _____. The Property Owners adjacent to the subject street will pay 100% of the standard installation costs and 100% of any upgrade costs, for a total assessment of \$ _____ per property. The special assessment will be incorporated into the property owner's real estate taxes.

Property owner who signs the Petition are acknowledging their willingness to pay their proportionate share of the project design, installation cost and maintenance cost for the speed humps as stated in this Petition.

Note: In order for this Petition to be valid, a minimum of fifty-one percent (51%) of the properties adjacent to the subject street must be represented below. In the case where there is more than one owner of the property, all property owners' signatures are required for the property to be represented.

Name (Print)	Address	Home Phone	E-Mail Address	Signature

