



Town of Southwest Ranches Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program provides residents an opportunity to present a concern for traffic safety with respect to observed volume and speeds on neighborhood streets and a formal method to study and evaluate, design and install measures to mitigate these concerns.

The Program incorporates the three “E’s” of traffic: **Education**, **Enforcement** and **Engineering**. Residents can actively participate through neighborhood committees providing education and awareness of the issues and solutions available. (PACE Car Program and Traffic Tamers). Increased education and enforcement through spot speed enforcement and increased law enforcement visibility effectively cause self-enforcement of speed regulations. Finally, where increased education and law enforcement have not made measurable improvement in speed reductions, then engineering measures, through physical means may be the last resort to effectively reduce neighborhood speeds, **Traffic Calming**.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers has defined traffic calming as follows:

“Traffic calming involves changes in street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or cut-through volumes, in the interest of street safety, livability, and other public purposes.”

Procedure for initiating a neighborhood traffic study:

1. Any resident may contact the Town of Southwest Ranches at 954 434-0008 or submit a request form to initiate the Traffic Calming review process. The form for a request is attached.
2. All traffic calming projects provide for and encourage citizen involvement. The town maintains a close dialogue with neighborhood residents and works with them to develop an acceptable traffic-calming plan. A project can be undertaken, only if it has the support of a minimum of 30% of residents on the street.
3. Staff with the help of BCTE (or other) collects and analyzes data about traffic issues that have been identified and presents the findings to the neighborhood representative.
4. If the criteria for traffic calming measures are met, then Type 1 option alternatives will be examined.

GOALS:

- To improve the environment and livability of neighborhood streets by “calming” or regulating the impact of vehicular traffic.
- To promote safe and pleasant conditions for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, residents and equestrians of neighborhood streets.
- To encourage citizen involvement in the traffic calming process by incorporating the preferences and requirements of the people using the area along the street or at the intersection.
- To reduce vehicular speeds on residential streets.
- To improve real and perceived safety for non motorized users of the streets.
- To discourage use of residential streets by non-residential cut through vehicular traffic.

Type 1 Options

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PACE CAR ▪ Traffic Tamers (Incorporates Radar Trailer & Law Presence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic Control Signage, Regulation Signage ▪ Striping centerlines, edge lines, stop bars
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4a. After **Type 1** options are approved and implemented, the Town will conduct periodic Traffic Studies (the frequency of these studies will be determined on a case by case basis) to measure the success of the solutions(s). If **Type 1** options are ineffective at controlling the undesired traffic conditions, then **Type 2** options will be examined. Street segments that do not meet the

qualifications are not further considered for traffic calming.

To be eligible for physical traffic calming measures, a street must meet the following qualifications:

Criteria to Qualify for Installation of Traffic Calming Measures

- It must be classified as Local residential street abutting land use is at least 85% residential
- It cannot be more than two travel lanes wide.
- The street surface must be to current Town standards, and maintained by the Town.

Streets must meet at least 1, 2, 3, & 4, of the following (Numbers 5 or 6 may be substituted for 3)

1. 500 minimum vehicles per day
2. 1000' minimum street length
3. 85% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit
4. A minimum of 30% of residents must give approval
5. A minimum of 3 correctable accidents in 12 months
6. A minimum of 25% cut through traffic.

5. Prior to installing any **Type 2** option alternative, a majority of homeowners must concur with the recommended actions. A public meeting will be held to report on the survey results, identify the issues, and discuss possible solutions, including alternative designs. A “working group” may be formed at this meeting, consisting of people who want to take a more active role in developing the project.

Type 2 Options

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic Tables ▪ Chokers ▪ Increased police enforcement ▪ Traffic Circle ▪ Other Signage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Do Not Enter” or “One Way” Signs accompanied by strategically deployed police enforcement ▪ Center Island / Narrowing ▪ Textured Pavement |
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OBJECTIVES:

To accomplish these goals, The Town of Southwest Ranches has developed a step-by-step process to follow that provides both objectivity and fairness to identify issues and solutions and implement those changes. Individuals or groups are encouraged to present traffic safety concerns to town staff. Once problems are identified, relatively simple measures, or ‘Type 1’ Options are considered and implemented to mitigate traffic concerns. If ‘Type 1’ Options do not correct the targeted issues, then extensive improvements – ‘Type 2’ Options, are considered. ‘Type 2’ Options are physical measures to control traffic speed and volumes by installing physical obstacles that either slow or divert traffic.

Once all the criteria have been met, a public hearing before the Town Council is held. If approved, and with adequate funding the traffic calming plan can then be implemented.

Please mail completed requests to:
 Town of Southwest Ranches Neighborhood
 Traffic Calming Program
 13400 Griffin Road
 Southwest Ranches, FL 33330
 954 434-0008 or Fax/954 434-1490

Summary of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

Step #1

- Citizen(s) contact Town with concern or a study is initiated by Town staff or a Town-based public body.
- Staff sends questionnaire to resident(s).
- Citizens return completed questionnaire to Town with a minimum of 30% of the residents on the street represented on the petition in order to request a traffic evaluation and move on to the next step.

Step #2

Southwest Ranches with BCTE or other:

- Conducts a preliminary evaluation including a basic speed and volume study;
- Recommends reduced speed limits if necessary; and
- Determines whether the traffic problem is significant enough to warrant further study and prioritization for traffic calming measures.

Step #3

- Town staff uses the prioritized list to help implement some interim strategies to provide citizens with some improvement to their traffic problems. These strategies may include Education and Enforcement:
 - The PACE Car Program
 - Traffic Tamers
 - Radar Trailers

Step #4

- Southwest Ranches with BCTE conducts a more detailed evaluation and study of the street.
- The data collected from the evaluation is input into the rating chart in order to create a prioritized list of street segments that have significant traffic problems.

Step #5

- Projects are selected based on the prioritized list and the connectivity of streets in specific areas.
- A citizen committee of residents who live on or near the project streets is formed.

Step #6

- Town staff works with neighborhood residents to hold a public meeting to develop the project.
- Staff presents the data for the project area and a “toolbox” of traffic calming measures.
- Citizens and Town staff work together to identify the key problems and recommend solutions for the neighborhood.

Step #7

- Southwest Ranches with BCTE or other develops a draft conceptual plan based on the recommendations from the neighborhood meeting.
- This plan is reviewed by representatives of other Town Departments.
- A final plan is developed based on any internal comments.

Step #8

- Staff presents the final report and conceptual plan to the neighborhood at another public meeting where meeting participants comment on the conceptual plan.
- Traffic Engineering staff refines the design as necessary

Step #9

- Citizens petition residents of the petition area to determine the level of support.
- Signatures must be obtained that represent at least 30% of the households in the petition area.

Step #10

- Staff Southwest Ranches with BCTE or other completes the detailed design.
- Agreements are signed between the neighborhood and the Town stating that the neighborhood will install and maintain any landscaping if applicable.
- Traffic calming measures are installed.

Step #11

- After six months, evaluate the project.
- Additional data is collected.
- Comments are solicited from neighborhood residents and other citizens.
- Corrective measures will be taken if necessary.



Request for Neighborhood Traffic Calming Town of Southwest Ranches

Name: _____

Area: _____

Address: _____

Day
Phone: _____ email: _____

Are you interested in participating in a Traffic Calming committee in your neighborhood? _____

May we contact you about this information when we begin to put a Committee together for your area? _____

Please check the following that applies to issues on your street:

Speed of automobiles	
Volume of automobiles	
Volume of trucks	
Number of accidents	
Cut through traffic	
High pedestrian volumes necessitates traffic calming	
High equestrian volumes necessitates traffic calming	

Please tell us about the specific problems on your street, or in your neighborhood:

Please mail or deliver completed requests to:

Town of Southwest Ranches
Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

