

Traffic Calming – Frequently Asked Questions

Do traffic calming measures affect emergency response times?

Studies have shown that certain traffic calming measures, especially vertical measures such as speed humps and raised crosswalks, can slow fire trucks and other emergency vehicles by about 3 to 10 seconds each.

Do speed humps affect snow removal?

Speed humps and raised crosswalks are gradually sloped so that snow plow blades go over without damage to them or the pavement surface.

Do speed humps create additional noise levels?

Studies have shown that some noise levels increase where the total percent of heavy truck traffic volume is 20% or greater. This does not pertain to our community.

Do traffic calming measures affect property values?

There is no evidence to suggest that traffic calming measures either raise or lower residential property values. It is likely that for every person who feels they detract from the value of a property, there is another who feels their safety benefits add to the value of a property.

Can the speed humps on our street be made higher or lower?

Speed tables (and raised crosswalks) in Fairfax County are 22 feet long and 3 inches high and extend roughly the width of the street. Both speed tables and raised crosswalks have a 6 feet incline, followed by a 10 feet plateau, then a 6 feet decline. Research has found these dimensions to be the best compromise to slow most vehicles without affecting emergency response times.

Who developed the traffic calming plan?

The development of this traffic calming plan for Lafayette Village Drive was a community-driven process under the leadership of the LVCA Traffic Calming Task Force, nominated by the Lafayette Village Board of Directors, and the overall direction of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). The task force has a significant role in the project approval. The community votes on the plan via a ballot process, to ensure that the traffic calming plan has widespread support across the community.

Who approves the traffic calming plan?

Following the community meeting, all homeowners in the town house section of Lafayette Village will be mailed a ballot, which they will return via mail to Supervisor Gross's office. In order for the plan to be implemented, 50% of the homeowners need to return the ballots back to the supervisor's office, as it is considered the neutral party. Of those ballots returned, 60% need to support the entire plan for it to be approved. The plan is voted on in its entirety; residents vote either for or against all of the proposed measures. Supervisor Gross's office will tabulate the ballots. After tabulation, the county will contact the Task Force and FCDOT with the results of the vote.