

## Traffic Calming

The Virginia Department of Transportation administers the Residential Traffic Calming procedures for local residential streets that address speeding problems in residential districts. VDOT has implemented and approved the use of traffic calming measures in two locations within Spotsylvania County. Those locations are The Timbers Subdivision and Fox Point Subdivision.

### WHAT IS TRAFFIC CALMING?

The goal of Traffic calming is to slow speeding vehicles and make subdivision streets less inviting for cut-thru traffic. In order to achieve this goal several measures have been approved for use through the Traffic Calming Guide. Those measures are:

- Community Awareness and education,
- Enforcement,
- Non-physical devices,
- Physical devices, and
- Alternative solutions.

The more drastic forms of traffic calming are obviously physical devices. The physical devices approved for application are:

- Speed humps,
- Chokers,
- Traffic circles, and
- Chicanes.

### HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The following are the steps that must be satisfied to be eligible for traffic calming:

1. There must be a documented speeding problem.
2. A valid petition signed by **at least 75%** of the residents within the affected area must be presented to the County Board of Supervisors.
3. A resolution from the County Board of Supervisors requesting traffic calming measures must be forwarded to VDOT.

A documented speeding problem is defined as the average speed of the vehicles traveling on the road in a 24-hour period exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 5 m.p.h. VDOT will collect traffic volumes during a speed study and if the volumes do not exceed 600 vehicles per day then physical measures are not required. Once a valid petition is received and VDOT determines that the subdivision meet these criteria, a committee will be established to determine the appropriate traffic-calming plan for the subdivision. This committee will be composed of residents of the subdivision, planning staff, a member of the Board of Supervisors, and representatives from the Sheriff's Office and fire and rescue. Once a plan is developed a community meeting will be held to inform all residents within the affected area and determine community support for the recommended traffic-calming plan.

Should residents wish to pursue the use of traffic calming measures, a petition with 75% of the resident's signature in the affected area will need to be completed and submitted to support the request for traffic calming. The petition area includes residences on the proposed street section needing traffic calming devices, and residences on all streets that have major access onto the proposed study street section. Once the petition is received and the affected area is verified by VDOT and Spotsylvania County, a speed study and traffic count can be done by VDOT to determine what traffic calming measures can be applied to the development.