



Aspiring. Achieving. Accelerating.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)

City of Avondale
Development & Engineering Services
11465 W. Civic Center Drive, Suite 120
Avondale, AZ 85323
623-333-4200

May 22, 2018

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP)

Traffic calming measures are physical features constructed as an integral part of a roadway. They cause motorists to change their driving behavior intended to reduce traffic problems on residential streets. The City of Avondale NTMP focuses on reducing excessive vehicular speeds and traffic volumes in existing neighborhoods using traffic calming measures to improve residents' quality of life. It is a program that is based on community involvement and adopted by Avondale City Council. All program and construction costs are borne by the City in those years that funds have been allocated.

Public roadways that are paved and maintained by the City that meet certain criteria are eligible for the NTMP. Construction of new subdivision developments must be completely built out before they are eligible for the NTMP. This is due to the possibility that developments that are still under construction may have different traffic patterns after buildout.

The program includes the following steps:

1. Initial Request
2. Traffic Study
3. Develop Plan
4. Petition
5. Construction

1. INITIAL REQUEST

The initial request can be made by either phone, email or through the City's website. If a homeowner or Home Owners Association (HOA) is interested in participating in the NTMP they should fill out the "NTMP Service Request" and return it to the City.

Phone:	623-333-4219
Website	www.avondaleaz.gov/ntmp
Email:	NTMP@avondaleaz.gov

When contacting the City of Avondale or submitting the "NTMP Service Request", it is important to identify a neighborhood volunteer to act as the NTMP Coordinator between the neighborhood and the City. As provided on the NTMP Service Request, the entity submitting the request volunteers to be the NTMP Coordinator. The entity can be an interested homeowner, small committee, or an HOA representative. This will enable a smooth and efficient process of coordination between the City and Avondale residents.

The NTMP Coordinator will have a significant amount of responsibility in the effort to obtain the desired traffic calming measures. They will conduct much of the field work

to distribute information to the neighborhood residents. They shall also be the lead person, group, representative for hand-circulating the petitions to the voting property owners for signature. This effort also indicates to the City that the request has not been made lightly and the NTMP Coordinator understands and accepts the work to possibly achieve their desired goals.

2. TRAFFIC STUDY

Upon receipt and review of a completed “NTMP Service Request”, a traffic study will be scheduled in the neighborhood. Requests for studies will be conducted in the order they are received. However, attempts will be made to group neighborhood applications together that come in around similar time periods to address requests efficiently. Traffic studies are usually conducted during the school year and on a weekday unless unique circumstances exist, as determined by City staff. The study area will be determined by City staff and may include studying multiple streets to help ensure a comprehensive solution.

To qualify for participation in the NTMP, the requested street(s) must be a Local or Collector street with no more than two travel lanes and additionally, meet one or more of the following criteria:

Minimum NTMP Criteria

Street Classification (Posted Speed Limit)	Avg. Daily Traffic Volume (greater than)	85th Percentile Speeds (greater than or equal to)
Local (25 MPH)	1000 vpd	32 mph
Collector (30 MPH)	6000 vpd	37 mph

(vpd – vehicles per day)

At least one street in the study area must meet one of the above criteria for the neighborhood to qualify for participation in the NTMP. In addition, the roadway that qualifies the neighborhood for the NTMP must receive traffic calming for other streets to be eligible. Roadways with a posted speed limit greater than 30 MPH are not eligible for traffic calming measures.

Collector roadways may only be eligible if all the following apply and they still meet the above NTMP criteria:

- They have no more than one travel lane in each direction, exception being a two-lane roadway with a center turn lane and meeting all other criteria, can be considered
- The posted speed limit is 30 MPH or less
- The street is within a residential neighborhood
- The Avondale Fire Department approves based on primary emergency response access routes

If the results of the traffic study fail to meet the above criteria for participation in the NTMP the street or street segment reviewed cannot be reviewed again for a minimum of one year.

3. DEVELOP PLAN

If the results of the traffic study show the neighborhood meets the NTMP criteria, the next step is for homeowners to work with City staff in the development of a draft traffic calming plan. The City will propose traffic calming features that would be effective in the neighborhood for residents to consider. This can be done in several ways:

- Informational Flyers shall be distributed.
- The HOA Board or representative can participate on behalf of the neighborhood.
- At an HOA meeting
- A traffic calming committee of homeowners can work with City staff on preferences.
- A public meeting or open house can be held.

Due to the extra time a public meeting can add to the process, a public meeting or open house is optional, and only if approved by City staff. In the absence of a public meeting the City will provide Informational Flyers to the NTMP Coordinator(s) for distribution to the neighborhood residents. The Informational Flyers will inform homeowners of the proposed traffic calming plan(s) plus provide links to the City's NTMP webpage and provide City staff contact information for questions or concerns.

Various types of traffic calming measures are eligible in residential neighborhoods through the NTMP. These include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

Traditional Traffic Calming Measures

- Speed Cushions/Humps
- Speed Display signs
- Signing and/or Striping changes

Unique Circumstance Measures

The Unique Circumstance Measures are used typically for situations or locations that other, less costly measures have been tried but have not achieved desired results. Additional review is required to determine their use or suitability for a condition or location.

- Traffic Circles
- Raised Intersections
- Median Islands
- Bulb-outs/Neckdowns

Road closures will not be a traffic calming measure allowed under of the NTMP.

4. PETITION

After a preferred alternative is developed, consensus must be obtained from the surrounding homeowners. Consensus will be determined through a petitioning process. The City of Avondale will prepare the petitions and deliver them to the NTMP Coordinator for circulation for signatures. The petitions will provide information on the chosen calming measures and include a map showing the selected location(s) of the traffic calming measure(s) and the petition area boundary. City staff shall determine petition boundaries for each measure based on the homes that will be most directly impacted by the proposed feature(s).

The petition has Yes/No options and the property owners within the petition boundary must sign the petition, even those that are opposed to the traffic calming measure(s). Every reasonable attempt will be made to help the NTMP Coordinator or volunteers circulating the petitions to contact nonresident property owners within the petition boundary. Renters are only allowed to sign petitions if the owner grants written permission for their tenant to act as their representative and is confirmed by the City. The City desires 100% of property owners signatures on the petitions but after significant effort to reach a given property owner fails, any unsigned petitions will be considered as unapproved petitions.

For a petition for traffic calming measures to be approved, 80% of property owners within the petition boundary must sign the petition approving the traffic measure(s). Only one property owner signature per house will be accepted. In addition, property owners immediately adjacent to a proposed traffic calming feature must sign the petition for the traffic calming feature(s), in that proposed location, to be approved. For example, the property owners of property directly adjacent to a proposed speed hump location, or property owners adjacent to a proposed traffic circle, must sign the petition for that specific feature to be constructed in its proposed location.

The petition process will have forty-five (45) calendar days from the date the petitions are provided to the NTMP Coordinator for circulation, signatures and return to the City. A written request for a fifteen (15) day extension can be submitted to the City no later than 5 calendar days before the end of the petition period. The request can be made by mail or email. If a petition expires, the proposed traffic calming measures will be considered unapproved and the neighborhood will be required to wait one (1) year to reapply.

5. CONSTRUCTION

Traffic calming features will be funded and installed by the City, typically in the order the petition approval process is completed and verified by City staff. "Before" and "After" traffic studies will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the NTMP measures. Drainage concerns and coordination with the Fire Department will be addressed as needed during design.

Traffic calming features have been installed in the city and residents are encouraged to visit those locations and experience the feature. Traffic calming history has many stories of requests for removal of newer installations of traffic calming features after residents had daily experience with them and decided they didn't want the feature after all. To minimize the possibility of removals, temporary features such as bolt-down speed cushions/humps may be installed before permanent installations are conducted. This will allow residents to experience the feature on a daily basis and confirm the residents agree with moving forward with the permanent installation.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. Private Subdivisions

Traffic calming measures on private streets will not be funded by the City. Any traffic calming measures desired on a private street will be required to follow City design standards and be designed by a professional Civil Engineer registered in the state of Arizona. The City will be included in process. Removal of traffic calming measures on private streets will be the responsibility of the subdivision home owners or HOA and should be accomplished by a qualified road building contractor. The subdivision is required to notify the City Traffic department of the plan to remove the installed measures.

2. Self-Funding

- a. Neighborhoods that do not meet the NTMP criteria for City funded traffic calming measures will not be allowed to fund their own traffic calming measures. The failure to meet NTMP criteria indicates the conditions are such that calming measures may degrade roadway service below legal and intended service levels.
- b. During periods that City funding does not exist for traffic calming measures that do meet City criteria, the City may allow neighborhoods to "self-fund" those approved measures in lieu of waiting for future City funding. The neighborhood would submit a formal request to the City requesting the approval to self-fund describing how the funding will be provided.

3. Removals

If a neighborhood desires an existing traffic calming feature(s) be removed, the full removal costs will be the responsibility of the property owners of the properties that were included in the original petition boundary area. The removal process will be similar to the installation process. A formal request must be made to the City followed by distribution of information to neighborhood residents and another petition process for property owner approvals. The petition will include a memo of probable costs for removal, but final cost estimates will not be completed until the removal process has been approved by the property owners. If the removals are approved, the removal

funds will be collected from the property owners before any removal work begins. The removal costs will include all engineering and construction costs.