

Neighborhood Traffic

A regular concern received by Adams County staff is related to vehicular speeds and "cut through" driving on neighborhood streets. Traffic in neighborhoods can affect the quality of life in the area for everyone, and each year, residents ask the county to do something about the problem.

There is no singular, easy solution to address neighborhood traffic concerns. Instead, effective traffic management relies on numerous countermeasures, both short-term and long term, and is most successful as a partnership between residents and county staff.

The Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP) is available to help residents work with the county to implement calming elements.

This brochure outlines:

1 How you can be instrumental in making your neighborhood more livable where motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists can utilize the streets in harmony.

2 What the county can do to aid in implementing traffic calming measures for your neighborhood.

Detailed program information, as well as process, steps, and timeframes are available online at adcogov.org/traffic-safety.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we add stop signs?

This is a common request, and the short answer is no, not for traffic calming purposes. Numerous studies show installing stop signs has no effect on overall speeds, especially between intersections, and safety issues can arise from drivers not complying with unwarranted stop signs.

Can we reduce the speed limit?

Speed limits cannot simply be chosen but are set based on a state statutory speed or based on an engineering study that considers criteria. Many studies have shown most motorists drive at a speed they consider safe and reasonable regardless of the speed limit, so arbitrarily lowering speed limits without physical features to support that limit or consistent enforcement has little effect on travel speeds.

If we pursue a traffic calming program application, will it be effective?

Yes, but it heavily depends on a balanced and multi-faceted approach, as well as strong consensus in the neighborhood to address the issue and willingness by residents to take part.

Questions?

Answers to more questions, additional information, and program specifics are available through Adams County Public Works by phone at **720.523.6875**, by email at PWTraffic@adcogov.org, or online at adcogov.org/traffic-safety.



Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

A partnership of residents and government working together to make our neighborhoods safer and more pleasant places to live.



PUBLIC WORKS

Program Overview

The calming program utilizes a sequential process with the least complex and costly elements to be applied first.

Education

The first step involves efforts to educate motorists. Examples of education techniques may include brochures, yard signs, and frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Tier 1 engineering (visual elements)

This component involves a request by a neighborhood, followed by information review by the county. Potential mitigation includes signage, striping, or the deployment of temporary driver feedback displays.

Tier 2 engineering (physical elements)

If concerns persist, the neighborhood may pursue Tier 2 calming elements, which involve physical changes to the roadway such as parking changes, installation of speed tables, etc.

The process involves an official request from the neighborhood, the county gathering and evaluating data to determine eligibility, a mitigation plan, and a neighborhood petition process that requires a majority of support for the plan. Approved projects may need to be prioritized against other requests based on funding.

Enforcement and code compliance

Residents can request increased enforcement of speed limits from the Adams County Sheriff's Office at **720.322.1114** and can report potential code compliance violations at **720.523.6800** (ext. 3). Note that availability of this is limited.

Things You Can Do to Make Your Streets Safer

AS A DRIVER...

Know and obey the speed limit

The most common concern in neighborhoods is speeding traffic, and typically, most traffic utilizing a local street is residents who live in the area. Therefore, if you and your neighbors slow down, the speeding issues can be minimized.

Watch for and yield to pedestrians

Pedestrians are often present in residential areas. A pedestrian has the right-of-way in a marked or unmarked crosswalk as long as they have used due care for their safety.

AS A PARENT...

Set a good example for your children

Children learn by watching and imitating their parents. Our actions, as drivers, pedestrians, or bicyclists, should always set a good example.

Do not encourage your children to play in the street

Instead, encourage them to use a yard, a nearby park, or an open space.

Teach your children pedestrian and bike safety

Provide specific and detailed information to your children on the proper use of roads as a pedestrian or cyclist.

AS A RESIDENT...

Talk with your neighbors

Help spread information and make a friendly request for everyone to drive slower.

Participate in your neighborhood association

Meet with your Homeowners' Association to discuss concerns about your road.

Report concerns and trim vegetation

Report damaged, faded, or missing traffic signs to the county and help maintain good visibility by trimming landscaping – especially at intersection corner lots.

THINGS THE COUNTY CAN DO...

Provide information

County staff can discuss safety with your neighborhood, help identify specific traffic concerns, and provide education.

Gather and analyze data

The county can verify road conditions, review crash data, and gather traffic speeds and volumes on a specific street.

Install signs and stripe roadways

Traffic signs can identify speed limits, control intersections, and warn motorists of turns, crosswalks, etc. Installing crosswalks and bike lanes when appropriate can also enhance safety.

Fund and manage the calming program

County staff manages the program, including the implementation of approved physical calming projects.



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

