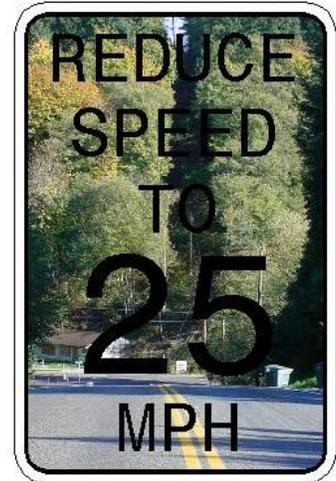


# A Summary of the City of Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide

Adopted February 2007



City of Mountlake Terrace  
Department of Community Development

## Traffic Calming in Mountlake Terrace

The City of Mountlake Terrace has adopted a formal Traffic Calming Guide to assist residents and staff in dealing with persistent speeding and/or cut through traffic problems in neighborhoods. This flyer outlines the key components of the guide and how you as a resident can begin working with your neighbors to address these issues.

The complete City of Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide can be viewed for free on the web at [www.cityofmlt.com](http://www.cityofmlt.com) or at City Hall. Printed copies can be purchased for \$5.00 each.

### Limitations

The City's Traffic Calming Program has been adopted in furtherance of the public health, general safety and welfare. It is not intended to create nor benefit a special class of individuals, nor does it create any third party rights or beneficiaries. Implementation of the program, in whole or in part, is subject to available funding, City resources, and other variables.

### How Do I Get Started?

The process begins when you and your neighbors develop a consensus regarding the problems you are seeing, and petition the City to begin an evaluation.

Using the petition enclosed with this flyer, identify the specific traffic problems and gather concurring signatures from 10 adults from different addresses in the area of concern. When finished, mail or deliver the petition to Mountlake Terrace City Hall at:

City of Mountlake Terrace  
Attn: Traffic Engineer  
6100 219<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Suite 200  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

### What Happens Next?

Based on the information provided in the petition, the City will define a study area and begin a traffic study to determine the magnitude of the problem. The study generally includes:

- Speed and traffic volume data
- Accident histories
- Street lighting

- Field visits and observations
- Interviews with residents

Staff may contact you or other petition signers to gather information on the problems you are seeing, including the days and times the problems are most acute and any other insights you can provide.

## Next Step?

Once the study is complete, you and the other residents in the study area will be notified of the findings by mail. Depending on the magnitude of the problems identified in the study, you will also be informed if the area qualifies for traffic calming measures. See the Traffic Calming Guide for specific eligibility requirements.

## A Two Phase Approach

The Traffic Calming Guide uses a two-phase approach to address speeding and/or cut through traffic in neighborhoods. If your neighborhood meets the criteria outlined in the guide then the City moves into Phase 1 of the program.

### Phase 1

Phase 1 solutions are traffic calming measure the City can implement more easily and quickly than Phase 2 solutions. Phase 1 solutions are also an effective way to address speeding within neighborhoods by residents themselves. Phase 1 solutions include:

- Traffic safety campaigns
- New traffic signs
- Pavement markings
- Targeted police enforcement

After implementation, the City will allow approximately 3 months for drivers to adjust to the changes before re-evaluating traffic with an analysis similar to the initial study that was performed. If the speeding and/or cut through traffic has not responded favorably to the changes then staff will either implement additional Phase 1 measures, or move to Phase 2.

### Phase 2

Phase 2 solutions generally involve modifying the physical geometry of the roadway and are much more expensive and more restrictive to traffic than Phase 1 solutions. Because of

this, Phase 2 solutions require a much greater level of resident involvement and concurrence for implementation.

Phase 2 solutions include:

- Curb Extensions/Radius Reductions
- Speed Humps
- Speed Tables/Raised Crosswalks
- Traffic Circles
- Medians
- Chicanes
- Stationary Radar Signs
- Diverters
- Turn Restrictions/Partial Closures
- Full Closures

For an explanation of these devices, along with where and when they can be used, see the Traffic Calming Guide.

## Summary

Traffic conditions on local streets are a key measure of neighborhood livability. When our streets are safe and pleasant, the quality of life is enhanced. Through active participation by you and your neighbors, we can identify the problem, plan the approach, understand the tradeoffs of possible measures, implement the solutions and evaluate their effectiveness. Traffic calming for residential areas seeks harmony between automobiles and people.

If you have questions or concerns about traffic in your neighborhood or about the Mountlake Terrace Traffic Calming Guide program, please contact the City Traffic Engineer at 425.744.6275.

