

F. TRAFFIC CALMING

During street layout and design, the issue of traffic calming should be considered. Early consideration can minimize future speeding problems and improve the livability of the neighborhood. If the street layout cannot be designed to encourage target speeds, traffic calming treatments may be appropriate. The type of treatment chosen for incorporation in the design depends on the function and traffic volume of the roadway segment.

Subdivision streets shall be designed to in accordance with Geometric Design Standard Tables 1, 2, and 3 in this appendix. This can be accomplished with attention to three major design areas – the width of the paved roadway surface, the length of tangent sections and the vertical grade.

The width of pavement should be the minimum to safely accommodate the proposed traffic. If this is not practical for other reasons, the road width can also be restricted at specific points through the use of chokers or raised median islands.

Tangent lengths should ideally not exceed 500 feet. Studies indicate that operating speeds were 30 mph or less when the tangent sections were no longer than 500 feet. Long tangent sections can be segmented by conditions that require a complete stop, such as T intersection or by conditions that require reduced speeds such as a traffic calming device. Devices that are suggested for new subdivisions with an average daily traffic between 600 and 4,000 vehicles per day include roundabouts, chokers, raised median/island, crosswalk refuges or raised pedestrian crosswalks.

Steep downgrades should be avoided in subdivision street design as vehicle speeds tend to increase on downward slopes and vehicles can quickly exceed desirable speeds. Speed humps should be avoided in favor of raised crosswalks.

Further design details for all types of traffic calming measures may be found in [VDOT's Traffic Calming Guide](#). Since the Traffic Calming Guide primarily represents retrofit designs, not all traffic calming design features in the guide are appropriate for new construction. Figure 12 illustrates certain types of traffic calming treatments that are appropriate for new construction.

Curb Extension* (Bulb-outs) are traffic-calming devices that narrow the street by widening the curb and sidewalk, landscaped planting strip, or parking area. This device works well when constructed at intersections or at mid-block locations to make the street appear narrow thereby reducing speeds. See Appendix B(2), Section B(2)-3 Elements of Typical Section for details.

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