



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Highways & Transportation

Traffic Engineering Section

TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming is the introduction of one, or a series of, engineering features intended to address inappropriate driving behaviour such as speeding or 'rat-running'. Examples of traffic calming are road humps, chicanes, traffic islands, signing, lining, coloured surfacing etc. The use of all these is controlled by highway legislation, which specifies where and the size of measures which can be used. Care has to be taken to ensure that the measures used reflect the type and scale of the problem.



Leeds City Council recognises the perceived safety threat where people feel threatened by the speed, proximity, volume or nature of traffic; the inappropriate domination of street space by vehicles, thereby diminishing the quality of life of residents, shoppers and traders; and the disturbance from traffic in terms of visual intrusion, noise or air pollution.

However, the current funding of traffic calming schemes requires a priority targeting of locations with an identifiable collision history. Whilst it may seem that the Council are 'waiting for collisions to happen', LCC must deal with sites that have a known history of injury accidents rather than those with only the potential to happen.

Funding from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) allocation will only be considered where the highway is the responsibility of LCC and where there is a demonstrable safety problem with a record of reported collisions and excessive speed or traffic volumes which traffic calming measures could reduce.

Schemes which cannot be funded by the LTP may be considered for funding from the Traffic Engineering allocation. They may also be funded from other sources e.g. Parish Councils or Property Developers.

Any individual or group can request traffic calming. In addition, LCC monitoring will identify any accident sites requiring traffic calming.

The consideration of a traffic calming scheme takes time to progress. Following a request it is first necessary to determine whether the traffic problem is one that traffic calming may address and how large is the problem. There may be other traffic engineering measures to address a particular problem.

Once a problem has been identified and agreed, a draft scheme is designed to enable initial consultation with the Parish/Town Council, Ward Councillors and others, e.g. the Police, Emergency Services, Motoring Organisations. Further consultation is undertaken as necessary. The results of the consultations are considered by the LCC.

Most traffic calming measures require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which will have to be advertised in the local media and on the roads affected. Any person may make representations, both for and against, the scheme. These are reported to the Highways and Transportation Board for consideration.

Whom to Contact

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