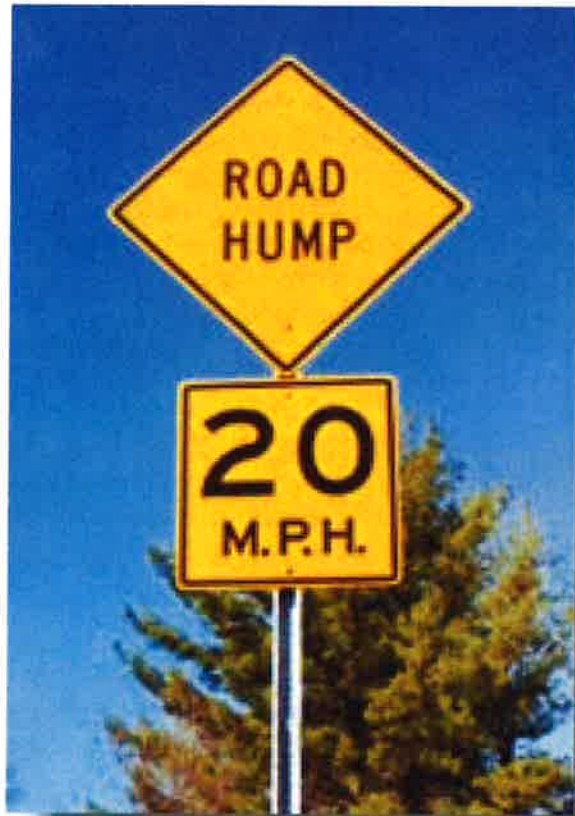




# City of Villa Rica Traffic Calming Program



City of Villa Rica  
Community Development Department  
July 5, 2016

**Article 8**  
**Section 8.06 (I)**

**1. Purpose of the City of Villa Rica Traffic Calming Program.**

In response to numerous complaints about speeding problems in neighborhoods, the City of Villa Rica Community Development Department has studied other similar communities along with other research on this topic. This research found that the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) completed a report for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) titled, *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice*. This report contains several types of traffic calming devices and defines traffic calming as follows: "Traffic calming is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users". The information in this report is critical to this policy and shall be used as a guide for any traffic calming device placed within Villa Rica. The above mentioned report is available for review at the Community Development Office or you may order a copy from the ITE bookstore online at [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org). The following policy has been established for the citizens of Villa Rica who wish to pursue the installation of traffic calming devices in their neighborhoods.

The objective of the City of Villa Rica Traffic Calming Program is to provide property owners a process to have installed traffic calming devices on city-maintained neighborhood roads, where engineering studies indicate that their use would meet the desired results of reducing neighborhood speeds and their installation is favored by 75% of the homeowners in the subdivision.

**2. Installation Considerations.**

The Community Development Department will only consider installation of traffic calming devices on streets classified as local, residential streets with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or less. Data obtained from traffic engineering studies of physical and traffic-related factors should be used in determining where traffic calming devices are appropriate. Traffic engineering studies may indicate that traffic calming devices would be unnecessary or unsafe at certain locations.

**3. Legal Authority**

Only the Villa Rica City Council can authorize the placement of a traffic calming device and shall also have the authority to remove any traffic calming device as may be deemed appropriate.

**4. Standardization of Application**

In keeping with the general recommendation of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), uniformity aids in the recognition and understanding of traffic control devices. Therefore, strict adherence to the standards and guidelines outlined in this manual will help ensure that any given traffic calming device installation will be equally recognizable and require the same action on the part of the motorists regardless of where it is encountered.

**5. Traffic Calming Device Design**

The City will be responsible for having the new traffic calming device engineered by a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Georgia and submitted to Community Development for approval. The ITE report titled *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice* shall be utilized when considering an appropriate traffic calming device. The design for roadways and other structures shall be in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets* (commonly referred to as the AASHTO Green Book).

## **6. Expense**

The City will be responsible for the cost of engineering and construction of the traffic calming device.

## **7. Procedure**

### **A. Petition for Traffic Calming Device**

To have a traffic calming device installed in City of Villa Rica, a petition must be submitted to Community Development. All of the property owners in the subdivision or defined service area shall be contacted and given opportunity to sign this petition, indicating "yes" or "no" concerning the installation of traffic calming devices. If both husband and wife are joint legal owners, both signatures are required. A "Mr. and Mrs." Signature is not acceptable. All owners must sign individually. This includes owners of undeveloped lots; renting tenants are not an acceptable substitute for the legal homeowner. No signature will be withdrawn from the petition after it is filed with Community Development. The purpose of the witness' signature is to verify the signatures of the property owners. The percentages will be calculated, based on individual lots where owners' sign affirmatively, divided by the total number of lots in the platted subdivision. Each lot counts as only one vote, regardless of the number of owners signing. If lots require more than one signature and do not have a unanimous vote, the vote will not be counted. At least 75% of the lots must vote in favor of the traffic calming device before petitions can be reviewed by Community Development. Once the petition is signed, notarized and returned to Community Development, it will be checked against tax records and land lot maps to insure it meets all requirements. For subdivisions not completely built out, a minimum of 60% of the total units within the subdivision must be occupied before a petition for the installation of traffic calming devices will be considered, and a minimum of 80% of the total units must be occupied before a petition for the removal of the devices will be considered.

### **B. Speed Criteria**

Community Development traffic studies must find a speeding problem does exist. The speed study will provide the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, which must prove speeds are at least 10 mph over the posted speed limit of 25 mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is an excellent indicator of street character and is used by nearly all states and cities for establishing regulatory speed limits.

### **C. Removal Process**

Removal of traffic calming devices can proceed if the city is presented a petition requesting that the devices be removed. The petition must be completed following the same criteria defined in 7A. Such a petition for removal will only be considered after traffic calming devices have been in place for a period of at least one year.

### **D. Design Review Process**

All designs submitted to Community Development for traffic calming devices must meet all the requirements listed in Paragraphs 1, 4, and 5. Community Development will review (allow up to 60 days) and possibly require modifications to the design. Once Community Development approves the design, it will be forwarded to the Villa Rica City Council for their consideration.

## **8. General Construction Guidelines**

### **A. Materials**

All materials furnished and/or installed by the City shall be from sources certified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and shall meet all specifications set forth by GDOT. Hot Mix Recycled Asphaltic concrete may be furnished and placed in lieu of virgin mix; in accordance with Section 402 of the GDOT Standard Specifications. Any recycled material must be approved the Community Development Department, and the finished work must meet the required density and gradation specifications set by GDOT Standard Specifications.

### **B. Traffic Control**

The City shall furnish, install, maintain and remove all necessary traffic signs, barricades, lights, signals, cones and other traffic control devices; and all flagging and other means of traffic protection and guidance as required by the Standard Specifications of GDOT, and the MUTCD.

**C. Construction Methods**

All work performed for this project will be in accordance with GDOT Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges, Current Edition, and the Supplemental Specifications, Current Edition, and attached modifications and special provisions.

**D. Signs and Pavement Markings**

The City will supply and install all signs, posts, hardware and pavement markings for each traffic calming device.

Appendix B – Petition Form  
CITY OF VILLA RICA TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

Subdivision/Neighborhood Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date petition was issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
(This petition is valid for one year from the above date.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (First, Last)                      Date                      Lot #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Witness                      Lot #

Page \_\_\_ of \_\_\_

Appendix A – Petition for Traffic Calming Devices  
CITY OF VILLA RICA

**\*SPECIAL NOTE\***

**Your signature on this petition indicates that you have read and fully understand all information concerning the traffic calming program.**

We the undersigned, all being property owners of the subdivision legally titled " \_\_\_\_\_", do hereby petition through our subdivision or unit(s) for installation of a traffic calming device. There are \_\_\_\_\_ lots currently existing in petition area shown and each owner as shown on the tax record has affirmatively signed this petition. This petition represents that 75% or more of the property owners of this petition area to be affected join in this request.

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Personally appeared before me, a Notary Public, the undersigned affiant, who says on oath that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the subscribing witnesses to the within instrument; that each of said witnesses saw the execution and delivery of the same by each grantor therein for the purpose set forth; and that each of said witnesses signed the same as purported.

Sworn to and subscribed before me,  
This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
State of Georgia