

Cambridge Community Development Department  
Environmental & Transportation Planning  
Traffic Calming Program  
57 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

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CAMBRIDGE  
TRAFFIC  
CALMING  
PROGRAM



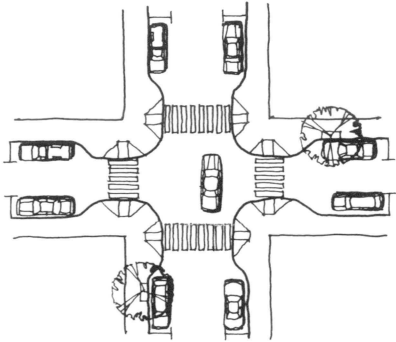
City of Cambridge - Community Development Department

## What is traffic calming?

Speeding traffic interferes with our ability to enjoy our neighborhoods – creating noise and making it hard to walk, bike, or drive safely. Traffic calming is a way of redesigning streets to slow down traffic – returning the streets to the neighborhood. The goal of traffic calming is to make our streets safer and more comfortable for all users and residents.

**How do you calm traffic?** Below are some of the ways we calm traffic.

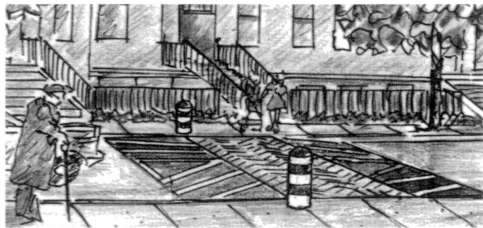
### Curb Extensions



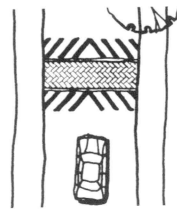
- reduce pedestrian crossing distance
- improve visibility for pedestrians and drivers
- prevent illegal parking at corners
- slow the speed of turning vehicles.



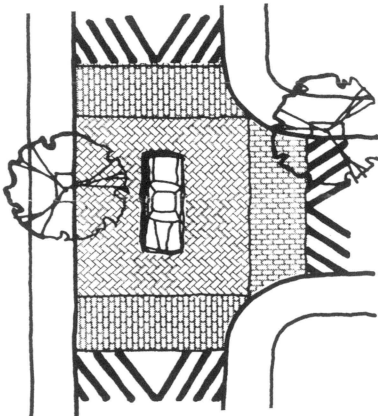
### Raised Crosswalks



- make it safer to cross the street
- slow the speed of vehicles
- make crossing with wheelchairs and strollers easier.



### Raised Intersections



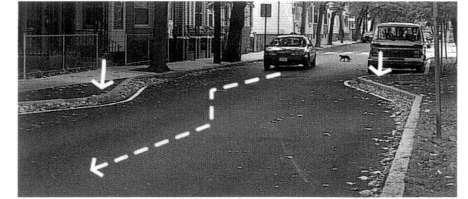
- make it safer to cross the street
- slow the speed of vehicles at intersections, where many conflicts occur.



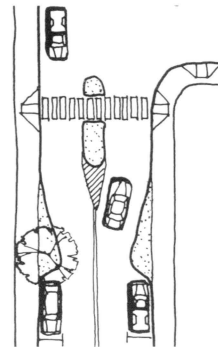
### Chicanes



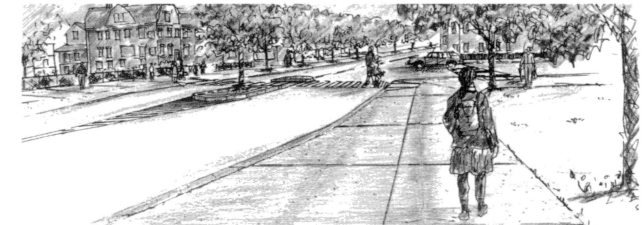
- are created by widening sidewalks or by alternating parking from one side of the street to the other
- slow the speed of vehicles by breaking up straightaways
- often provide areas for increased landscaping.



### Crossing Islands



- make it safer to cross the street
- slow the speed of vehicles by breaking up straightaways
- allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time.



## How are traffic calming projects chosen?

If you think your street could benefit from traffic calming, contact the Traffic Calming Project Manager. The City maintains a list of potential traffic calming projects. City departments work together to establish priorities, based on such factors as:

- severity of the speeding problem
- ability to coordinate with other projects
- proximity to elementary schools and playgrounds.

When a street nears the top of the priority list, City staff work closely with neighborhood residents to determine the best way to slow traffic. The width of the street and the volume and speed of traffic help determine what alternatives are possible.

### For More Information Contact:

Traffic Calming Project Manager

Phone: 617.349.4655 Fax: 617.349.4633 TTY: 617.349.4621

E-mail: [traffic-calming@ci.cambridge.ma.us](mailto:traffic-calming@ci.cambridge.ma.us) Web: [www.ci.cambridge.ma.us](http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us)



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
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City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

May 30, 2000

To the Honorable, The City Council:

Attached you will find a copy of the recently completed traffic calming brochure. City staff prepared the brochure as a way to provide residents with information about the Traffic Calming Program. The brochures will be given to residents at community meetings and will also be sent to residents when they call concerned about speeding issues on their street.

If you have any questions about the Traffic Calming Program or the brochure please let me know and I will be happy to have staff assist you.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Attachments

1705

1795

Completed  
traffic calming brochure.

June 5, 2000

1705