

**City of Lawrence  
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda  
October 6, 2008-7:00 PM  
City Commission Room, City Hall**

**ITEM NO. 4:** Consider request for TRAFFIC-CALMING on 9<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Sunset Hills Elementary School.

Facts:

1. The City's *Traffic-Calming Policy* provides criteria for traffic calming devices.
2. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in this area is classified as a "collector" street.
3. The *Policy* permits traffic-calming on "collector" streets if the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed exceeds the speed limit by 5 mph or more; or, if the traffic volume exceeds 3000 vehicles per day.
4. Traffic data collected on September 10-11, 2008, found the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed to be approximately 37.6mph (the posted speed limit is 30mph) and the traffic volume to be approximately 7100 vehicles per day.
5. Therefore, this area does meet the minimum criteria for consideration of traffic-calming devices.
6. It should be pointed-out that a request for a pedestrian refuge at the school crossing at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Street & Schwarz Road was approved by the City Commission on March 8, 2005, but has not yet been funded.

**ACTION: Provide recommendation to the City Commission.**

**City of Lawrence  
Traffic Safety Commission  
October 6, 2008 Minutes**

**ITEM NO. 4:**

**Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on 9<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Sunset Hill Elementary School.**

Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Public comment:

Chris Bay, 901 Schwarz Road, Principal, Sunset Hill Elementary School: The issue is that the traffic doesn't slow down even though we have a crossing guard and we have two schools that are funneling onto Schwarz Road; our request if to do anything to help calm the traffic and protect our students and the crossing guard; based on the data, it would qualify so your recommendation to the commission would be appreciated.

Trina Langston, 712 Arizona Street: I foresee if something isn't done, we're going to have a tragedy on that street; the traffic on that street is unbelievable; I've had several parents approach me requesting that something be looked at regarding slowing the traffic or a signal or some way to ensure the safety of the kids.

Commissioner Miller: I live in that area and I'll add another detail; when I stop to turn left onto Wellington, I'm a little concerned about getting rear-ended the way people come flying-down headed westbound on 9th.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: I drive that street at least three to four times a week; there's a lot of traffic on that street and I'm surprised the speeds are as low as they are; I agree that this is a location that warrants traffic calming.

Commissioner Harden asked if it meets the criteria; Woosley advised that it does.

Commissioner Heckler: From personal observation today during school crossing times, I suggest the traffic was going far greater than 20mph.

Commissioner Smith asked if the previously approved refuge island were built, if it would help to alleviate the current problem; Woosley advised that the refuge island would make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street by having to cross only one direction of traffic at a time, but would have a limited effect on reducing the speed of traffic.

Commissioner Woods asked what options there were for traffic calming; Woosley advised that since 9<sup>th</sup> Street is a "collector" street, the most common device in Lawrence would be speed cushions.

Commissioner Woods asked if speed cushions would be more likely to be put in than the island; Woosley advised it would depend on how each device was ranked, based on the city's ranking system and funding from the city commission.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MILLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO RECOMMEND INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET ADJACENT TO SUNSET HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; THE MOTION CARRIED (6-0).**

**David Woosley**

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**From:** Phil Thomas [philthomas27@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2008 9:53 AM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Subject:** Traffic Calming Devices for Sunset Hill Elementary

Hello,

I spoke with David the other day about the possibility of adding traffic calming devices on 9th Street around Sunset Hill elementary. I'm a new father and have started noticing that it seems a little unsafe for the children with the speed of traffic on 9th Street. This is a residential area, but traffic is often going well in excess of 30 mph.

I saw that Lawrence Avenue had a couple of those new "speed humps" just put in like the ones on west Harvard road. I was wondering if the city would considering putting something like this around Sunset Hill on 9th. I feel that this would be a very simple way to make the area a lot safer.

I think the following 2 locations would be the best:

- In the 2800 block of 9th St. just east of Schwartz (Just East of Sunset Hill elementary)
- At 2914 W. 9th St. (Just east of Wellington and on the West side of Sunset Hill elementary)

Please let me know if you need any more information or if there is anything I can do to help.

Thanks,

Phil Thomas

9/22/2008





# TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Resolution No. 6602, August 23, 2005

1. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may include but are not limited to Traffic-Calming Circles, Speed Humps and Speed Cushions, Speed Tables, Partial Diverters, Full Diverters, Center Island Narrowing, Chokers, and Road Closures; however, roundabouts are traffic management devices and are not subject to this policy.
2. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may be permitted on "local" streets as designated by the City's Major Thoroughfares Map, and under any one of the following conditions:
  - A. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of traffic is 5 mph or greater over the speed limit, or
  - B. The 24-hour two-way traffic volume is greater than 1000, or
  - C. Cut-through traffic comprises more than 50% of the traffic during the peak hour of the day, or
  - D. Where no single condition is satisfied, but where any two of A, B or C above are satisfied to the extent of 80 percent or more of the stated values.
3. TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES (except SPEED HUMPS) may be permitted on "collector" streets as designated by the City's Major Thoroughfares Map, under any one of the following conditions:
  - A. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of traffic is 5 mph or greater over the speed limit, or
  - B. The 24-hour two-way traffic volume is greater than 3000, or
  - C. Cut-through traffic comprises more than 50% of the traffic during the peak hour of the day, or
  - D. More than 50% of the frontage of the roadway consists of residential lots with the houses facing the roadway in question, or
  - E. Where no single condition is satisfied, but where any two of A, B, C or D above are satisfied to the extent of 80 percent or more of the stated values.
4. Traffic data will be collected with city personnel using city equipment only. In the event that a requested location does not meet the minimum requirements as stated in 2 or 3 above, subsequent requests will not be considered for a minimum of one year.
5. The Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department, the Police Department, the Public Works Department and the Traffic Safety Commission must review all requests for TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES before being presented to the City Commission.
6. If a project is approved by the City Commission, the City Commission will determine financing of the construction. The City Commission may require 0-100% of the costs to be paid by the group or neighborhood making the request.
7. After a project is approved and funded by the City Commission, TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES will only be constructed at a location if 70% or more of the property owners within 300 feet measured along the centerline of the street in each direction approve of the installation or if directed by the City Commission. The individual, group or neighborhood making the request shall be responsible for obtaining the property owners' and residents' approval in writing and submitting it to the city.
8. Once installed, TRAFFIC-CALMING DEVICES may only be removed at a location if more than 70% of the property owners and residents within 300 feet measured along the centerline of the street in each direction approve of the removal or if directed by the City Commission. The individual, group or neighborhood making the request shall be responsible for obtaining the property owners' and residents' approval in writing and submitting it to the city.
9. TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES may initially be landscaped (if appropriate) by the city, provided that the group or neighborhood making the request agrees in writing to maintain the landscaping or pursuant to the payment of a landscape maintenance fee. No privately installed landscaping is permitted unless approved by the city in writing.