

Charlotte Neighborhood Traffic Calming and Fire Response Times

Working Toward a Solution

June 10, 2019



Overview



- Updated Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy adopted by City Council November 2018
- NC Fire Code effective on January 1, 2019 to align with International Fire Code
- Some traffic calming devices impact emergency response times more than others

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy	Fire Code
Removes barriers for neighborhoods	Traffic calming devices delay response times
Increases the number of traffic calming devices where warranted	New Fire Code authorizes approvals/denials by fire code official



Updated Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy

- Policy initially developed in 1998
- Aligns with Vision Zero goals and objectives
- Lowers thresholds
- Simplifies petition process



Background

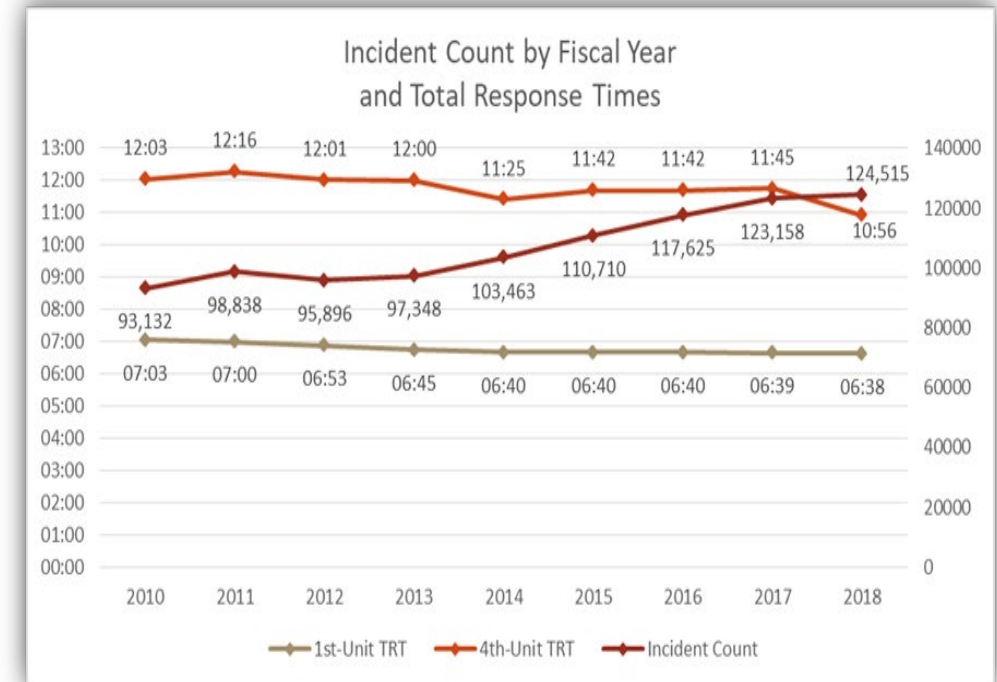


2015 International Fire Code (IFC)

- Effective in NC on January 1, 2019
- All traffic calming devices must be approved by fire code official
- New Fire Code responds to concerns that traffic calming increases response times

Fire code language

- IFC Section 503.41. states "Traffic calming devices shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official."





Neighborhood Traffic Calming

- CDOT received over 200 requests since November 2018 policy update
- Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) and CDOT have been working on a solution to meet the requests and maintain emergency response times



Pilot Project



CDOT and CFD are:

Evaluating alternatives to traditional speed humps to minimize impact to response time

Next 3 months:

CDOT will install at four test locations	CFD will evaluate
Speed tables Speed cushions	Collect and analyze data to identify alternatives to existing speed humps

CDOT is engaging with neighborhoods throughout pilot



Next Steps



Based on the results of pilot project:

- Offer more design options for speed humps citywide
- CFD will use data to model real time conditions
- Continue to support Vision Zero goals by making traffic calming available to residents

