Resident-led Traffic Calming
What is Resident-led Traffic Calming?

Resident-led Traffic Calming projects temporarily or permanently change a residential street or streetscape, in order to improve safety, slow traffic or add beauty to a neighbourhood. Residents work together to initiate, plan, lead, design and implement these projects using their own creativity and collective efforts.

You may come up with your own ideas that are unique and specific to your particular street, but here are some of the most common examples:

- Painted crosswalks
- Roadway painting, like intersection murals
- Planter boxes on the boulevard
- Neighbourhood lawn signs
- Temporary or “pop-up” measures
- Alternative uses of parking spaces

Benefits of Resident-led Traffic Calming

- Bring awareness to traffic safety issues in your neighbourhood.
- Reduce vehicle speeds.
- Enhance the overall look and feel of the streetscape.
- Add some creativity and beauty to your neighbourhood.
- Bring residents together to work on something fun and beneficial for their neighbourhood.

Who do I contact to get started?

City staff is here to help.

Darren Kropf
Neighbourhood Development Office
lovemyhood@kitchener.ca
519-741-2200 ext. 7083

This information is available in accessible formats upon request.

Please call 519-741-2200 ext. 7083 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.
Nine easy steps

Generate ideas and support

1. Meet with city staff
Meeting with you in your neighbourhood, we’ll discuss how city staff can make it easy for you to make your idea happen, as well as:

   - Your goals for this project
   - Your current idea and proposed location
   - Safety guidelines and road legislation that might impact your project
   - Costs and funding opportunities

2. Talk to your neighbours
Discuss possible ideas for your specific street(s) with your neighbours. Involve as many people as you can, as you’ll need their support in step #6.

3. Gather community support
You may be able to get help with recruiting volunteers, securing financial support and more by involving your ward councillor, neighbourhood association, schools, faith communities, businesses or other organizations.

Create a design

4. Draft a design and share with staff
Based on what you’ve heard from your neighbours, draft a design – or two! Rough drawings or sketches are okay. City staff will provide feedback on safety and accessibility.

5. Finalize your design
Create a final design in colour, with enough detail, such as approximate measurements, to make your ideas clear and easy to understand.

6. Confirm neighbourhood support
Share the final design and collect signatures of support from your neighbours. Staff will provide a form and explain how many residents need to sign it, depending on your street and project.

Make it happen

7. Get things ready
Create a list of things that need to be done leading up to installation day, such as purchasing materials, recruiting volunteers or securing funding. Staff will help with all of this!

8. Plan your installation
Sketch out a written and visual description of what will happen on the street for the day of your installation and provide it to staff, so they can arrange a road closure permit.

9. Install and celebrate!
In advance, send everyone involved an update on how things will proceed on installation day. Then make it happen! This is an exciting day. Celebrate with food or music and invite the whole neighbourhood. Have fun!
How much will this cost?

Costs will vary significantly depending on your street and the specific idea. Here’s an approximate price range of the most common projects:

- Road painting:
  - Thermoplast - $15,000 (life span of 7-10 years)
  - Asphalt paint - $1,000 (life span of 1-3 years)
- Planter boxes - $50 - $500 per box
- Lawn signs - $5 - $100 per sign

To help you pay for your project, funding may be available through the City’s Neighbourhood Matching Grant, or a number of other sources. Just ask City staff to help you explore options.

How long will this take?

Overall, the entire project will take around two to six months.

The most time consuming part of the project may be gathering support from your neighbours. You’ll need to inform 100% of your neighbours about this project, and collect signatures of support from 50% +1 of neighbours directly adjacent, and 60% of neighbours within a block (or up to 100 meters). City staff will explain these requirements at your first meeting.

Keep in mind, the best times for installation are April to October.

Also, previously scheduled road maintenance may delay your project slightly (to ensure we don’t rip up the road right after you finish your beautiful design!).

How will we work together?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your role</th>
<th>The city’s role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reach out to your neighbours to get others involved and gather their support.</td>
<td>Clarify which neighbours need to be contacted, depending on the details of your project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come up with a fun and creative design that the neighbourhood supports.</td>
<td>Ensure the design is safe and accessible.</td>
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<td>Determine how you’ll pay for the project and complete grant applications or fundraise.</td>
<td>Help you access city grants that your project may qualify for, and provide some tips for fundraising.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase supplies and install your traffic calming idea. This could include recruiting volunteers or hiring artists or contractors.</td>
<td>Provide contact information of companies that provide approved equipment or supplies for street use.</td>
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<td>Be responsible for any maintenance, if needed.</td>
<td>Notify you if your project has suffered any damage or vandalism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate with a party! Inspire others by sharing pictures on social media, using #lovemyhood.</td>
<td>Tell other residents about your project and encourage them to go check it out!</td>
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**Things to think about**

You may have seen other traffic calming measures in Kitchener, like speed humps, roadway narrowings or raised crosswalks. These measures require formal traffic studies to determine if they qualify, and are largely led by city council and city staff.

In contrast, the traffic calming projects that qualify for this program can be led by residents at any time of year, without formal traffic studies. Please click here for more information on other City of Kitchener traffic calming policies.

A few tips to consider:

- Remember, your neighbours will want to see your design and discuss how it will look, so be prepared to chat.
- If it’s difficult to get in touch with your neighbours, leave a copy of your design in their mailbox with a note that outlines your plan and how to reach you.
- Some traffic calming measures may need to be seasonal or require maintenance by the community. City staff will advise you, if needed.
- If you’re hiring a contractor to install your project, you may need a drawing made to scale. City staff can help with this.
- Some streets are managed by the Region of Waterloo and may not qualify for this program. Staff will let you know.
- Don’t forget to schedule a rain date for your installation day, just in case.
- Remember to take pictures and share on social media with #lovemyhood!

**Safety first**

- Remember to think about how your design can improve safety and accessibility for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and motor vehicles.
- Don’t forget to have a first aid kit available on the day of your event.
- Plan for the weather on installation day.

**Want some ideas?**

- **Project for Public Spaces** has an excellent “Streets as Places” website with case studies, how-to manuals and ideas for reimagining the role of streets in a neighbourhood. Visit pps.org/transportation.
- Halifax has several creative murals designed to bring beauty to a neighbourhood. Their website has many pictures of completed designs, as well as a time lapse video of an intersection mural.
- London has an Adopt-A-Street program that includes planting flowers and beautifying boulevards.
- The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Design of Public Spaces Standards describes the accessibility requirements for outdoor public areas.
- “How to build a better block” includes open source ideas and designs.
- Search “traffic calming” on Pinterest or Google images for pictures of projects like planter boxes, sheep bollards and more.
Resident-led Traffic Calming in Kitchener

Lancaster Street, at Chapel Street, is walking on sunshine! In 2016, residents in Central Frederick designed a decorative crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety on a busy school route.

The whole neighbourhood came out to watch contractors install the crosswalk in Central Frederick.

A pilot project in 2015, residents in Mount Hope Breithaupt Park designed and painted a mural on the intersection of Wilhelm Street and Ahrens Ave. Young and old enjoyed working together to add some beauty to their ‘hood, as seen in this time lapse video.

In 2014, residents in Westmount neighbourhood put up lawn signs to remind drivers they are on a residential street with children playing.