

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Residential Traffic Administration Program (R-TAP)

BENEFITS AND DETRIMENTS OF TRAFFIC CALMING

BENEFIT/DETRIMENT	ISSUE	COMMENT
BENEFIT	SELF-ENFORCING	Physical devices are self-enforcing, not dependent upon police enforcement.
BENEFIT	CONTINUOUS PROTECTION	Physical measures afford 24-hour protection and are not dependent upon police presence.
BENEFIT	PROVEN SPEED REDUCTION	Studies have shown marked decline in speeds with traffic calming devices in place.
BENEFIT	SOLUTIONS PROVIDED	Officials now have a tool to offer citizens in definitively addressing speeding traffic in neighborhoods.
BENEFIT	ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF MULTI-WAY STOP (MWS) SIGNS	Physical devices are now an option to MWS signs, which are not recommended to control the speed of traffic, nor as effective.
BENEFIT	CRIME DETERRENT	Physical devices impede the time of escape from the neighborhood.
BENEFIT	REVITALIZATION	Modifying streets to be people friendly creates an environment for restoration and renewal in older neighborhoods.
DETRIMENT	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME (ERT)	ERT will be reduced anywhere from 3-10 seconds depending upon the type of measure and the type of emergency vehicle.
DETRIMENT	SELF-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS	Residents must abide by the measures installed, which may have been directed primarily at non-neighborhood traffic.
DETRIMENT	AESTHETICS	Calming devices require additional pavement, signs and striping. (However, this can be partially offset by greenery planted in or around the devices.)
DETRIMENT	COST	One traffic-calming device can run anywhere from \$2,500 (speed hump) to \$30,000 (small circle or median), dependent upon measure.