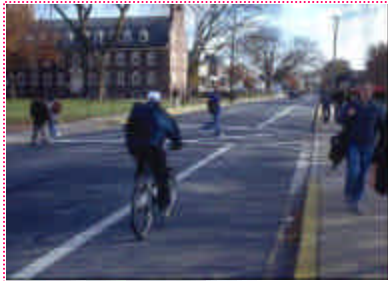


Old Newark Traffic Calming Plan



MARCH 2002

WILMAPCO

Old Newark Traffic Calming Plan

Prepared For:

WILMAPCO

Wilmington Area Planning Council
850 Library Avenue, Suite 100
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 737-6205
www.wilmapco.org

In Partnership With:

City of Newark
Delaware Department of Transportation
University of Delaware
Devon/Binns Civic Association
Old Newark Civic Association

Prepared By:

REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS

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Introduction

SECTION

I

What is traffic calming and its purpose?

According to the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), traffic calming is “the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.”

Traffic calming measures should not be confused with route modifications, traffic control devices, and streetscaping. Traffic control devices, notably, stop signs and speed limit signs, are regulatory measures that require enforcement. Traffic calming, by contrast, is intended to be self-enforcing.

The immediate purpose of traffic calming is to reduce the speed and volume of traffic to acceptable levels. Reductions in traffic speed and volume, however, are just means to other ends such as traffic safety and active street life. Different communities undertake traffic calming for different reasons. The following are various reasons communities undertake traffic calming:

- ✓ *Reduce through traffic*
- ✓ *Reduce truck traffic*
- ✓ *Reduce occurrence of excessive speeding*
- ✓ *Reduce noise, vibration, and air pollution*
- ✓ *Reduce accidents*
- ✓ *Provide safer environment for pedestrians*

This study was done in response to growing concerns that excessive traffic volumes and vehicles operating at excessive speeds, threaten the local quality of life and the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors to the Old Newark area.

The area studied is between Delaware Avenue to the north, South Chapel Street to the east, the Amtrak Rail Line to the south, and Elkton Road to the west. South Chapel Street and Delaware Avenue are included in the study. Elkton Road is excluded.



This traffic calming study was developed by the work of team members from the Delaware Department of Transportation (DeIDOT), WILMAPCO, the Newark Police Department, Aetna Fire Company, Newark Public Works Department, Newark Planning Department, University of Delaware, community residents, and Remington & Vernick Engineers. This study determined when and where traffic calming improvements should be implemented.

The principle reasons for traffic calming developed by this study are as follows:

- ◆ *Reduce excessive speeding on local and residential streets.*
- ◆ *Reduce non-local “cut-through” traffic on residential streets.*
- ◆ *Enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, especially at crosswalks.*
- ◆ *Encourage walking and biking as an alternative to driving.*
- ◆ *Reduce traffic speeds that are well above posted limits on some Old Newark Streets and negatively affect the quality of life for residents, pedestrians and bicyclists.*

In addition to seeking to preserve, enhance and conserve the local quality of life within the study area, the decision-making process must take into account the need for adequate emergency vehicle accessibility and circulation and the fiscal impacts associated with construction, maintenance and the operation of traffic calming improvements.

This policy applies to all City-owned streets within the Old Newark Study Area. State-owned streets and highways within the area will be subject to DeIDOT’s *“Delaware Traffic Calming Design Manual”* policies.