



City of Breezy Point

The City of Breezy Point, Minnesota Traffic Management Testing & Speed Limit Study Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures the City will use to evaluate requests for, and if appropriate, implement traffic testing or speed limit studies on City owned and maintenance roadways. Neighborhood traffic issues are often characterized by vehicles exceeding the speed limit, cut-through traffic, vehicle crashes, and near-miss incidents. As such, the City desires to provide a consistent method for evaluating traffic management and speed limit study requests in areas and locations where regulatory means may prove insufficient.

II. DEFINITIONS

Advisory Speed Sign, a black and yellow sign used to indicate a hazard warning and advise motorists of a comfortable navigation speed. For instance, when traveling on a winding road, the curve warning sign would be used with an advisory speed sign.

Statutory Speed Limit, the designation set by Minn. Stat. § 169.14, subd. 2 & 3; where no special hazard exists that would alter the designated lawful speeds but any speeds in excess of such limits shall be unlawful.

Traffic Calming Measures & Devices, changes to a street, or the surrounding infrastructure, that help reduce traffic speeds and enhance safety. These changes are generally material, or location based, and effect roadway design or function.

Traffic Impact Study, as per the MNDOT a traffic impact study (TIS) is a comprehensive analysis of the “before” and “after” operational traffic impacts to a road system resulting from proposed development and associated traffic movements and volumes.

Traffic Speed Limit Study, a study designed to measure the actual speed of regular traffic along a designated roadway. Speeds are generally presented statistically using the average 85th percentile speed.

Voluntary Speed Compliance, the uniform speed of vehicles in a traffic flow which results in the safest operation most drivers find reasonable given the posted regulatory speed.

Regulatory Speed Sign, a black and white sign which designates and shows the maximum speed a motorist may travel under ideal conditions. If a speed limit sign is not posted on a Minnesota roadway the speed limit is designated under Minn. Stat. § 169.14, subd. 2 & 3.

III. SCOPE

The scope of this policy indicates the manners in which employees or contractors may use traffic management testing and speed limit studies to execute and conduct City business as directed by the relevant City Committee or the City Council. To request a traffic management or speed limit study residents must identify a candidate street or roadway and submit a written request to City Hall.

For a request to be eligible for traffic testing, speed limit studies, or related research and developments streets must satisfy the following minimum criteria:

1. The street must be under the jurisdiction of the City. State and County highways and roadways are not eligible for City implemented traffic calming or controlling measures.
2. The street must not be classified as an easement designated for City use or maintenance.
3. The street must be designated for City use and maintenance and must be one hundred percent (100%) built out to be considered for review.
4. The affected street must have residential or commercial land use, with active residency, directly fronting or adjacent to the roadway.
5. To commence a study the request must be made by a tax paying property owner along the corridor in question and include a petition signed by surrounding property owners.

That petition must additionally:

- a. Include other local property owners along the street being requested for study within one thousand (1,000) feet of the primary location in both directions along the corridor and consider the abutting relevant properties.
- b. Receive a twenty-five percent (25%) signatory rate from property owners petitioned along that corridor. (i.e.: for a segment of road with twenty (20) different property owners to be considered, the petition must be signed by five (5) property owners.)
- c. Be officially submitted to the City of Breezy Point City Hall located at 8319 Co. Rd. 11, Breezy Point, MN 56472 during regular business hours between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

A. Recommendation, Study, and Implementation Parameters

The various City of Breezy Point Committees and City Council are solely responsible for approving implementation of changes based upon study parameters and outcomes. Upon their discretion staff will act to carry out improvements as directed. No member of staff shall take action to modify a roadway, street, signage, or any item related to a request and petition without prior approval from the City Council.

Sole discretion on whether a study will be performed by the City or not is given to the associated City of Breezy Point Committee and City Council. All study and research parameters will be established during relevant Committee or Council meetings and staff will implement their directions as such.

The results of a study do not directly designate outcomes or actions on the part of the City of Breezy Point. Any changes to roadway design, signage, category, or speed are conditioned upon prior approval of the appropriate statutory authority. The City of Breezy Point City Council reserves the right to modify or alter any decision, recommendation, or implementation at its discretion.

B. Modification and Deviation from Policy

The City reserves the right to modify this policy at any time if deemed to be in the best interest of the City based on safety, social, political or economic considerations. Only the associated City of Breezy Point Committee or City Council may authorize a deviation from

the implementation of this policy. Such deviation shall be documented including the reason for the deviation and other information supporting the deviation.

IV. POLICY

1. Study Request & Petition (Application)

Residents must identify a candidate street or roadway for a traffic study and submit a written application to City Hall within the parameters listed above in section III. All requests will require a description of the specifics of the request and a petition. The petition must have a twenty-five percent (25%) signatory rate of the study area signing the application as outlined above in section III of this document. Appendix A and B provide a sample Application and Petition for use.

2. Preliminary Review and Evaluation

The City Administrator's Office, and any additional required staff, will review the initial request and accompanying petition to ensure completeness. Consideration will then be given to whether the study can be accomplished within normal public works operations or if the study will require additional burden upon the City. Staff will compile any necessary information for presentation, make a preliminary determination, and coordinate a meeting with the associated City of Breezy Point Committee for review.

3. City Council Action or Approval

Based upon the above evaluation and recommendations by necessary Committees, City staff will provide a final recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed traffic study. Upon review the associated Committee or City Council will direct staff to draft necessary plans for final consideration. If the City Council approves a recommendation to perform a study staff will implement the process as directed and proceed with associated developments. The City Council reserves the right to final decision-making authority in this process. No previous recommendation or decision by a City Committee shall bind the City to action.

4. Data Collection and Traffic Study

If it is determined the request falls under the City's jurisdiction, and the City Council approves the Committee's recommendation, the City will undertake and perform all engineering studies of the requested streets, neighborhoods, or areas (including the gathering of relevant roadway data) as directed.

5. Develop/Evaluate Traffic Management Strategies

Based on the results of the related traffic study and input from staff and contractors, the City of Breezy Point Public Works Department will make a preliminary determination of the project area's need and recommend appropriate strategies to address the problem.

6. Receive Neighborhood Feedback

Residents living along the study area corridor will be given the opportunity to comment on proposed strategies during a Regular City Council Meeting. Staff will prepare a summary memorandum ahead of the assigned meeting to present the conclusions of the traffic study and discuss appropriate next steps in the process.

7. Traffic Management Strategy Recommendation and Approval

The proposed strategy recommended by Staff must be approved by the City of Breezy Point City Council ahead of implementation of any traffic management strategy. Additionally, should there be a need, the City of Breezy Point may seek the approval of necessary City Committee's prior to approval by Council. All recommendations are subject to change or alteration based upon the recommendation of a Committee or City Council.

8. Implement Temporary Strategy and Monitor (Optional)

If a management plan is approved it may be possible, or recommended, to first implement a temporary strategy for testing. If a temporary measure is installed, it will be monitored for a period approved by the City Council to determine its effectiveness.

9. Strategy Evaluation (Optional)

If a temporary measure is implemented results from its monitoring will help determine if the strategy will be recommended for final approval by the City Council. If the temporary measure is not effective the City Public Works Department and associated Contractors may revisit the analysis and development of strategies (Steps 5 and 6) or choose to recommend discontinuation of the process.

10. Design, Final Assessment, and Construction

If the project is approved, City staff will prepare and commence the final design and project improvement as directed by the City Council.

11. Monitoring

Once a traffic management strategy has been implemented the City may continue to conduct periodic monitoring of the site to collect data for future implementation of strategies and to document the effectiveness of the installed strategy. The program strategy and any associated developments or tools may be amended at any time by the City of Breezy Point City Council.

CITY OF BREEZY POINT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TESTING APPLICATION

Name:

Phone Number:

Street Address:

Email:

Project Area:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Project Description

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

CITY OF BREEZY POINT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TESTING PETITION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>