

**TOWN OF BRISTOL TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY**

**A. TOWN MISSION STATEMENT**

In an effort to ensure that the Town of Bristol roadways are kept safe, addressing neighborhood safety is one of our highest priorities. The Town of Bristol is actively working to address residents' traffic concerns on Town maintained roadways. This policy was established to provide traffic calming solutions for safer roadways and increased quality of life in our neighborhoods.

It is the goal of the Town of Bristol to achieve solutions to traffic related problems in a manner that is least intrusive to our neighborhood residents.

This policy has been developed for the purpose of establishing a formal process for residents to initiate requests for traffic calming measures on Town maintained residential roadways.

Bristol residents that have concerns regarding excessive traffic speeds in their neighborhood may apply to the Town of Bristol for traffic measures to be studied and implemented if deemed desirable.

**B. TRAFFIC CALMING DEFINITION AND AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

Traffic calming is the combination of measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Traffic calming consists of physical design and other measures put in place on existing roads to reduce vehicle speed and improve safety for residents and pedestrians with the use of speed humps or roadway narrowing. These measures are used to reduce vehicular traffic speeds.

Please remember that although traffic calming strategies can have the desired benefits in the targeted area, they also can create disadvantages to adjacent streets and neighborhoods. These factors are taken into consideration by the Town of Bristol when reviewing traffic calming requests.

TOWN COUNCIL  
 DEC 06 2023  
 MEETING

1. Traffic Speed Humps: An artificial ridge set crosswise into the surface of a roadway to make the operators of vehicles drive at a slower speed.
2. Road Narrowing: Also known as road diet, is a narrowing of travel lanes. Narrowing lanes encourage driver alertness and cause motorists to slow down at the narrowed roadways.

The Town frequently receives requests for new stop signs to reduce traffic speed and improve safety on local streets. According to the Federal Highway Administration, stop signs are used to determine vehicular right-of-way at an intersection and should never be used to control vehicle speeds. Research shows that installing unnecessary stop signs often results in an increased number of collisions and speeding.

### **C. TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

1. Proposed road needs to be a town-maintained roadway.
2. Proposed road shall not have more than one traffic lane in each direction.
3. Proposed road shall not have a posted speed limit greater than 25mph.
4. Proposed road shall not be on a RIPTA bus route.
5. Proposed road shall not have emergency response services located on or used as a primary route for emergency services (unless approved by those services).
6. Traffic study showing at least 85% percentile of speeds 10 mph over posted speed limit or roadway contributing factors.
7. Neighborhood support with 70% approval by residents, as verified by the current tax roll.

### **D. TRAFFIC CALMING REQUEST PROCEDURES**

A traffic calming request form will need to be completed by the resident. The traffic calming request form will need to include details identifying the traffic problem. Town Hall staff will evaluate the completed form and forward the request to the Bristol Police Department and Bristol Department of Public Works to further evaluate the request. The Bristol Police Department will conduct a two-week traffic study, accident analysis and traffic flow. Town Hall staff will identify an "area of influence" utilizing the abutters zoning map for the neighborhood. The area of influence will also include properties abutting the street and properties on intersecting streets within a reasonable distance of the problem street.

Once an area of influence is established, the resident will need to circulate a signature petition describing the traffic issue. A 70% approval is needed to continue. Town Council will vote to continue proposed traffic calming measures. If funding is available, the project will be approved for installation. See traffic calming request progress flow chart on page 4.

#### **E. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

Construction shall conform to the standards established by licensed Engineers contracted by the Town of Bristol and approved by the Town Administrator and Director of Public Works. The Department of Public Works reserves the right to change, modify or adopt different standards, provided that the Town Administrator is informed of the changes prior to its implementation.

#### **F. TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT DESIGN**

The traffic calming design is to be completed by licensed Traffic Engineers selected by the Town of Bristol. Traffic Engineers will develop a plan within the traffic calming guidelines to address the traffic concerns which were brought before the Town Council. The Traffic Calming design is subject to Town Council approval. Two most commons traffic calming practices utilized by this Town will be the Traffic Speed Humps and Roadway Narrowing. Additional measures will be considered as needed.

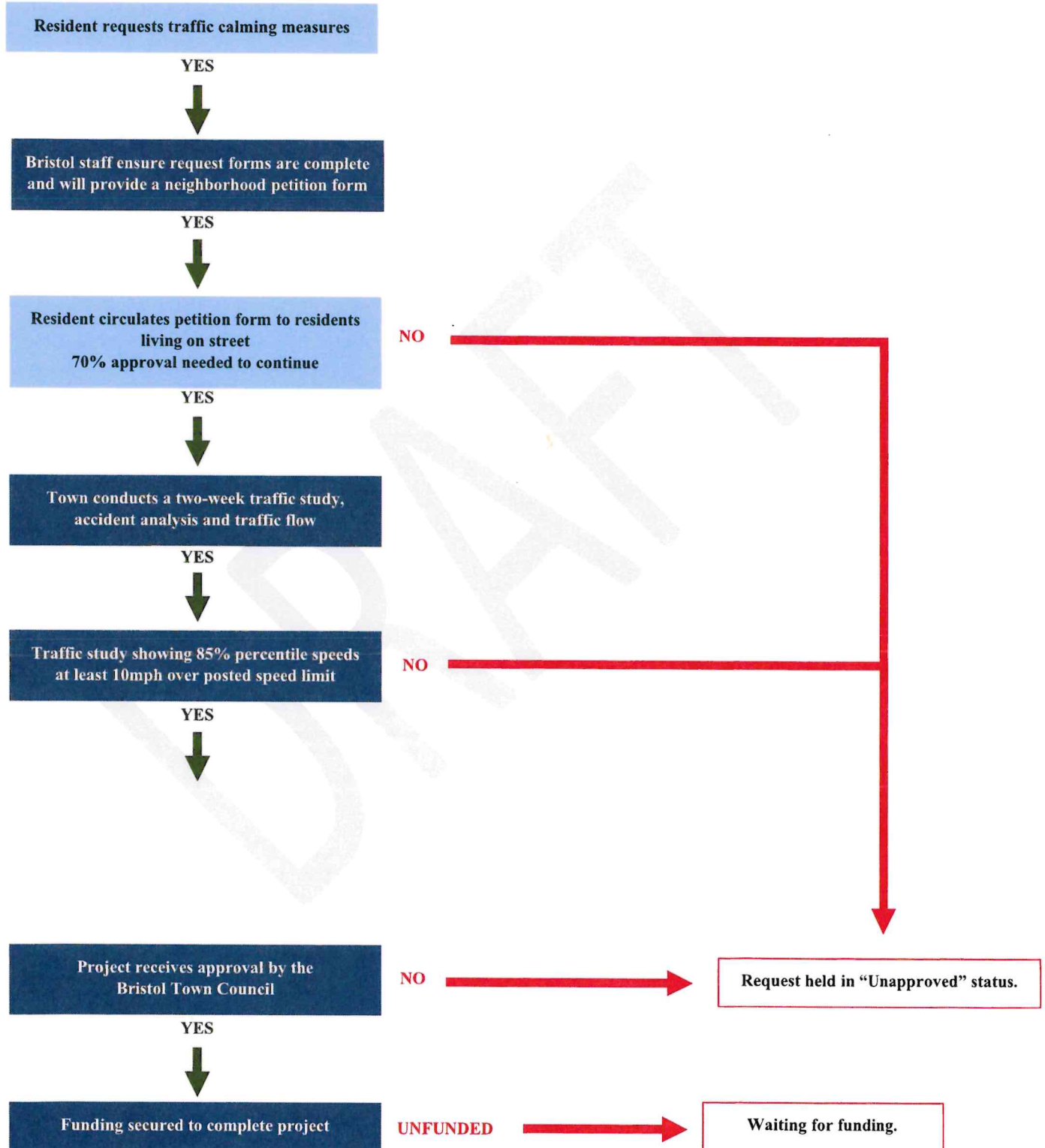
#### **G. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Traffic calming measures must be designed to accommodate all people in the community. To accomplish this goal, features that are implemented to improve pedestrian safety, or have an effect on pedestrian travel, must be designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### **H. REVIEW OF IMPLAMANTED TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

After installation of a traffic calming measure, an additional traffic study shall be conducted at six months and one year to determine the effectiveness of the project. This review shall be conducted by the Police Department and forwarded to the Town Council for further review.

# TRAFFIC CALMING REQUEST PROGRESS FLOW CHART



**NEIGHBORHOOD PETITION FORM (PAGE 1)**

**Please complete this form and return with attached sheets to:**

**Town of Bristol**

**10 Court St.**

**Bristol RI, 02809**

**THE UNDERSIGNED AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

All persons signing this petition do hereby certify that they own property or reside within the following area:

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All persons signing this petition do hereby agree to the following concern in the defined area:

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All persons signing this petition do hereby agree that the following contact person (s) represent the neighborhood in matters pertaining to items above:

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Name of contact person (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of second contact person (optional) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

