



## Citizen Concern

The City takes its role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate responsibility of safety rests with pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists in Lawrence. Due to the number of citizen requests per year, we cannot always investigate your request as quickly as we would like to. However, we will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,  
REQUESTS OR  
SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING  
TRAFFIC, PLEASE CALL THE  
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
DIVISION AT  
832-3034.**

12 April 2011

What You Need  
To Know About

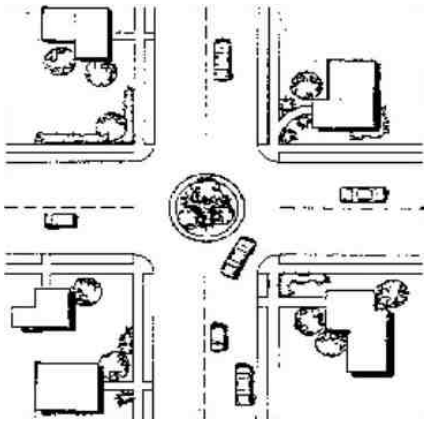
# TRAFFIC CALMING CIRCLES



**TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION  
CITY OF LAWRENCE**

## What Are Traffic Calming Circles?

Traffic Calming Circles are small landscaped circular islands constructed within intersections to provide geometric control to slow traffic on *local* streets where they intersect other *local* streets, and in some cases, where they intersect *collector* streets.



Traffic Calming Circles provide control to traffic because they physically require vehicles to slow down in order to maneuver around them. Landscaped Traffic Calming Circles are also an aesthetic enhancement to the neighborhood and serve to remind drivers they are in a residential area.

## Why Not Use More STOP Signs?

Many residents ask why more STOP signs can't be used to address speeding vehicles. The reason is that STOP signs are used to assign right-of-way (i.e. to let drivers know who goes first at an intersection.) STOP signs are not the appropriate device for controlling vehicle speeds.

Engineering studies have shown the placement of STOP signs used for speed control alone, can actually increase vehicle speeds between STOP signs; furthermore, unlike geometric devices such as Traffic Calming Circles, STOP signs are a passive device that drivers may choose to ignore. This can result in a serious accident if another driver or pedestrian is given a false sense of security and crosses in front of a driver that ignores the STOP sign.



## Where Can Traffic Calming Circles Be Constructed?

Traffic Calming Circles can be constructed on *local* streets where they intersect other *local* streets and where they intersect *collector* streets.

Traffic Calming Circles are most effective and least expensive when constructed at a four-way intersection. They can also be installed at "T" intersections, however, additional road-narrowing or road-widening may be necessary.

## Where Can I See A Traffic Calming Circle?

Traffic Calming Circles are currently in place at the intersections of 17th Street & New Hampshire Street and at 18th Street & Sweetwater Court/ Research Park Drive and other locations throughout Lawrence.