Traffic Calming Project Report

Cape Charles Dr - North between Dominion Blvd and Cape Charles Dr



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1) Project Overview and Existing Conditions

Project Overview:

The Cape Charles Dr - North traffic calming project focuses on addressing the identified speeding and speed related crash issues identified through engineering evaluations along the street.

Cape Charles Blvd was prioritized as #19 out of the highest-ranking propriety traffic calming projects that meet warrants for action. This priority list was presented to City Council with the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program's Annual Report and approved to begin design and engagement work at the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting.

Existing Conditions:

- 85th Percentile Speed: 31 mph in the 25 mph zone
    - This is the speed at which 85% of drivers are going at or under.
- Volume: 1375 average daily vehicle trips
- Crashes: 1 speed related crash in the previous 3 years

2) Desired Outcomes

The goal of this project is to slow drivers down to approximately the speed limit and work to eliminate/minimize future speed related crashes. This will be measured with an after-study to be performed approximately 6 – 9 months after the project's completion.

Staff will define the project as successful if the 85th percentile speed of the street is within 3 mph of the posted speed limit and secondarily a 95th percentile speed of the street within 8 mph of the posted speed limit.

A second after-study will be performed approximately 3 years after the project has been completed to compare crash rates along the street to measure if speed related crashes have decreased.

3) Project Timeline & Engagement

City Council Approval for Design/Engagement: May 5, 2026

Touchpoint 1 – Learn & React: September 21, 2026 – October 9, 2026

- Views: 240
- Participants: 32
- Responses: 69
- Comments: 25

Touchpoint 2 – Review: October 19, 2026 – November 6, 2026

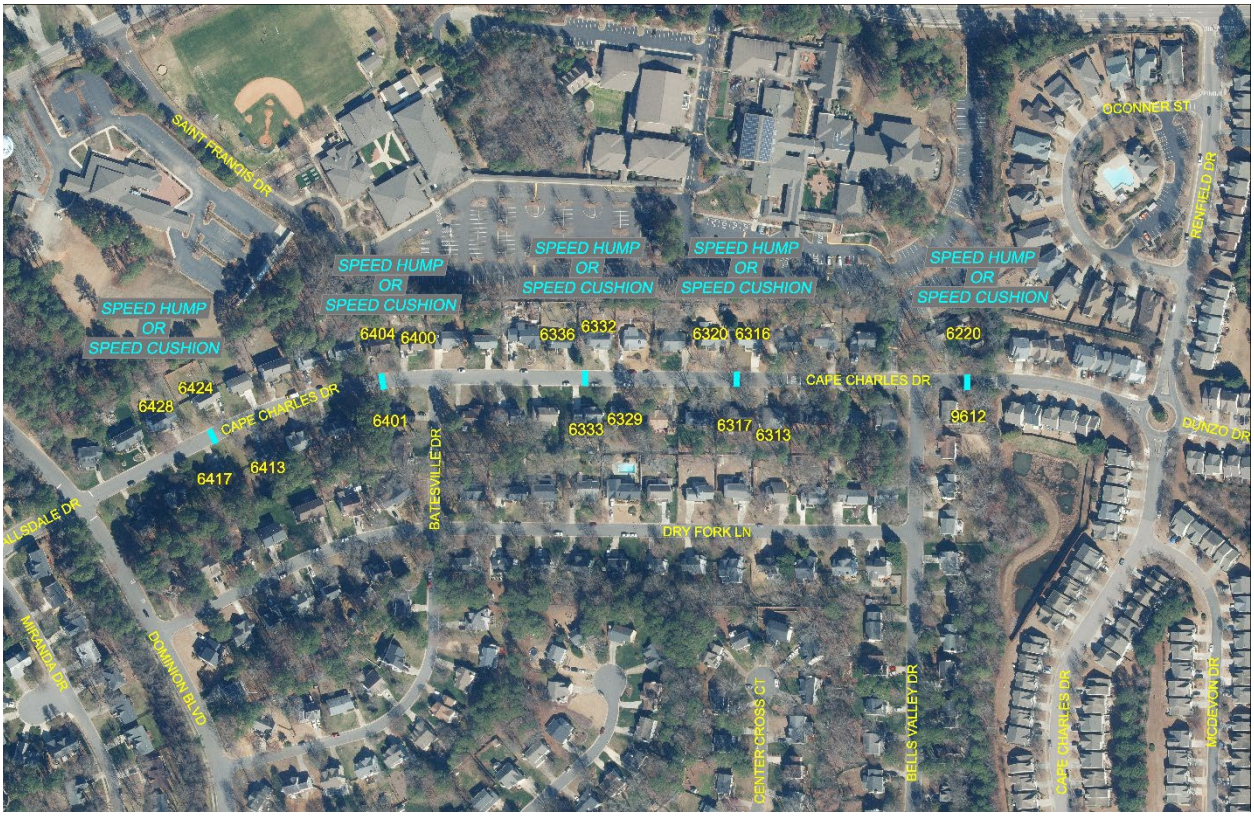
- Views: 140
- Participants: 6
- Responses: 29
- Comments: 11

Touchpoint 3 – View Final Design: November 16, 2026

Construction: Construction bidding spring 2028

4) Touchpoint 1: Preliminary Layout & Feature Options and Resident Feedback

Preliminary Layout:



The preliminary layout recommended 5 vertical devices along the street spaced at approximately 400' intervals.

Resident Feedback:

The general sentiment is strongly supportive of implementing traffic calming measures on Cape Charles Dr, with residents overwhelmingly focused on improving pedestrian safety, reducing excessive vehicle speeds, and creating a safer environment for children walking and biking to school. Numerous comments describe long standing speeding concerns, with several residents expressing fear of serious crashes or injuries if conditions remain unchanged. Many residents voiced support for speed humps, while others preferred speed cushions due to concerns about bicycle accessibility and rider comfort. Residents voted 46% for speed humps and 54% for speed cushions.

Sidewalks were the most frequently requested additional improvement, with multiple residents emphasizing the large number of children and families who walk along Cape Charles Drive, particularly following changes to school bus service. Several comments also raised concerns about drivers using nearby streets such as Dry Fork Lane as cut-through

routes to avoid traffic calming devices. Additional requests included evaluating traffic calming measures on Dominion Boulevard, improving pedestrian crossing conditions near schools and bus stops, increasing speed enforcement, and considering adjustments to the proposed placement and number of traffic calming devices.

Updated Design Considerations:

Staff is recommending Speed Cushions be the device that advances following the 54% approval rating received. Speed Cushions meet the core needs identified through the neighborhood feedback process by effectively reducing vehicle speeds while accommodating bicyclists more comfortably than traditional speed humps. Resident comments consistently focused on speeding concerns, pedestrian safety, and the need to create a safer environment for children traveling through the corridor. Speed Cushions provide an effective balance between speed reduction and multimodal accommodation.

Several residents requested sidewalks along. Staff acknowledges the desire for pedestrian infrastructure. However, sidewalk construction is outside the scope of traffic calming projects. Traffic calming projects are focused on addressing identified speeding and safety concerns through measures installed within the existing curb lines. Sidewalks and other behind the curb improvements will be consideration through separate planning and capital improvement processes.

Several comments referenced the large number of school aged children walking through the area and concerns regarding driver behavior. The proposed traffic calming measures are intended to complement the existing school zone by encouraging lower operating speeds and reinforcing the expectation that drivers travel cautiously in an area with regular pedestrian activity.

5) Touchpoint 2: Advanced Layout & Feature Selection and Resident Feedback

Revised Layout:



The revised layout kept the recommended 5 vertical devices along the street spaced at approximately 400' intervals with speed cushions selected as the device preference based on the 54% approval rating. The recommendation supports the area's existing school zone and frequent pedestrian activity by encouraging safer, more consistent driving behavior while remaining accommodating to bicyclists. Sidewalks and other behind-the-curb improvements were common requests but are outside the scope of this traffic calming project and may be considered through future infrastructure planning efforts.

Resident Feedback:

Residents were generally supportive of the revised design and strongly endorsed the installation of speed cushions on Cape Charles Dr, with several commenters emphasizing concerns about speeding in the area. Some residents suggested additional measures such as lowering the speed limit, adding more speed limit signage, and expanding traffic calming treatments to nearby streets including Dominion Boulevard and Bells Valley Drive.

Several residents expressed concern that drivers might divert onto Dry Fork Lane to avoid the proposed speed cushions, potentially increasing traffic and speeding on neighboring residential streets. Others highlighted pedestrian safety issues, including reports of near-misses and requests for a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Bells Valley Dr and Cape Charles Dr.

Updated Design Considerations:

Staff is not recommending changes to the proposed traffic calming design based on the resident feedback received. While several residents expressed concerns about potential cut-through traffic on adjacent neighborhood streets, staff's experience with completed traffic calming projects has generally not shown a significant long-term shift in driving behavior following installation. Staff will continue to monitor traffic conditions after implementation and evaluate any emerging concerns as part of the post installation review process. Requests related to crosswalks marking or other intersection improvements are outside the scope of this traffic calming project and may be reviewed separately through the appropriate programs and processes.

6) Touchpoint 3: Final Design and Design Recommendations

Final Design Recommendations:



Staff is recommending 5 vertical traffic calming devices along Cape Charles Dr, spaced at approximately 400' intervals based on the street's characteristics, adjacent land uses, and the presence of the existing school zone. The proposed spacing is intended to provide consistent speed management throughout the street while complementing existing school zone operations and supporting a safer environment for residents, pedestrians, and students traveling through the area.

General Sentiment Breakdown and how engagement informed the design:

First round of engagement found general project sentiment:

- Positive: ~70%
- Neutral: ~15%
- Negative: ~15%

Second round of engagement found general project sentiment:

- Positive: ~57%
- Neutral: ~29%
- Negative: ~14%

Staff's continued engagement with residents throughout the project development process has helped identify both support for traffic calming measures and concerns related to existing traffic patterns and neighborhood travel behavior. These conversations have provided valuable context regarding speeding, pedestrian activity, school zone operations, and conditions on nearby streets, allowing staff to evaluate resident input alongside established traffic calming practices. While not all requests fall within the scope of this project, the feedback received has helped inform the overall project approach and will support continued monitoring following implementation. The resulting proposal represents a balanced traffic calming solution that addresses identified speeding concerns while maintaining consistency with the project's goals and the Cape Charles existing characteristics.