

# F17-09/10

## 504.3.1, 502.1

**Proponent:** Tom Lariviere, Chairman, Joint Fire Service Review Committee

**Add new text as follows:**

**503.4.1. Traffic calming devices.** Traffic calming devices are prohibited unless approved by the *fire code official*.

**502.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

**TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES.** Traffic calming devices are design elements of fire apparatus access roads such as street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures intended to reduce traffic and cut-through volumes, and slow vehicle speeds.

**Reason:** Many communities are facing increased traffic volumes. Both new and existing streets are experiencing higher vehicular volumes and speeds as drivers attempt to find “short cuts” to ease their commutes. Designers, planning departments and traffic departments are increasingly turning to traffic calming measures to preserve the quality and enjoyment of life for their citizens. A key interest of all emergency services is to provide timely response to emergencies. Traffic calming devices can unduly delay and result in damage to emergency apparatus. This proposed language will allow fire officials to restrict traffic calming devices to those that will minimize these problems.

Standard emergency medical service response times are based on 4-6 minutes. This time frame is based on the fact that brain damage resulting from cardiac arrest typically occurs within 4-6 minutes. Delaying, or extending, these response times in any fashion places the public at greater risk. Traffic officials and fire officials both have the responsibility to ensure that public interests are properly considered in their decision-making process. Both sets of officials have detailed regulations to provide for those interests.

This proposal requires approval of traffic calming measures by the fire code official. What it doesn't do is detail how that approval is to be made within various jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction has their own traffic pattern emergency response challenges. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure that the fire department is part of this decision-making process. This proposal requires approval of traffic calming measures in private fire access roads and public roads.

Many traffic calming designs include various road configurations that delay, or even restrict, fire apparatus access. Such items may include “roundabouts”, speed humps, narrowing of streets, winding roads rather than straight roads, etc. All of these items slow the response time of any emergency response vehicle whether it be law enforcement, medical services, or fire. The definition for traffic calming is based on the definition provided by the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

**Cost Impact:** The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

**Public Hearing:** Committee: AS AM D

**Assembly:** ASF AMF DF

ICCFILENAME: LARIVIERE-F5-504.3.1DOC