

Traffic Control Request Policy City of Mount Holly

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a process that allows residents to request or amend traffic control devices in the City. The guidelines in this policy will assist City staff in determining an appropriate course of action upon receiving a request by a citizen.

The City of Mount Holly is required by law to review requests under the Manual for Uniform Transportation Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways and private roads open to public travel.

The MUTCD defines traffic control devices as all signs, signals, markings, and other devices used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, place on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, pedestrian facility, bikeway, or private road open to public travel by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction, or, in the case of a private road, by authority of the private owner or private official having jurisdiction.

The City of Mount Holly does not maintain any signalized intersections and the majority of the traffic control devices on City-maintained streets include signs and pavement markings.

Types of Requests

Additional Traffic Control Devices – When a request is received for additional traffic control devices such as an additional stop sign at an intersection. The request will be reviewed by the Streets and Solid Waste Department (Streets Department) to determine if the request is on a City-maintained street, the request is regulated under the MUTCD and what the appropriate action is required by the MUTCD.

If the Streets Department determines the request is on a City-maintained street and the requirement by the MUTCD is not being met, then the Street Department will coordinate to have the traffic control device installed. If the Streets Department determines the request is on a City-maintained street and the requirement is being met, then the Street Department will deny the request.

If the request triggers an engineer study of the situation, then the applicant will be required to pay the cost of the study before the study is initiated. The engineer study by the City will provide a recommendation based on the type of request made and the guidelines outlined in the MUTCD.

Speed Limit Reduction – When a request is received for a speed limit reduction, the Police Department will place the Radar Trailer in the area to document the motorists speed. Based on that report the Police Department will provide a recommendation.

Signs Not Installed by the City

Children at Play – The MUTCD does not include “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs or any variation and are not recommended. However, this does not prevent a property owner from installing these signs on their private property in conformance with Article 9, Signs, of the Zoning Ordinance. The following are reasons that the City does not install these signs:

- They are typically designed to look like warning signs, with a black legend on a yellow background. Other warning signs provide information on specific locations of the hazard (intersection, pedestrian crossing, curve, etc.).
- “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs merely inform a driver that children may be in or near the road.
- Motorists should expect children to be at play in all residential areas, and the lack of signing on some streets may indicate otherwise.
- These signs do not provide guidance to motorists as to a safe speed.
- “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs could give a false sense of security in letting children play in the roads. In fact, no level of signage could ever protect a pedestrian when they are struck by a vehicle.
- Studies have shown that “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs do not reduce the speed of traffic or make drivers more observant.
- When a jurisdiction installs signs not in conformance with the MUTCD, it is creating liability for your local agency.

Application

Any request as part of this policy requires an application to be completed by a resident of Mount Holly. The Application is in the Appendix of this Policy.

Public Notification Process

Any request that results in the amendment to an existing traffic control device or installation of a new traffic control device will go before the City Council at a public hearing for review to amend the City’s Official Traffic Map.

Public notice will be met through posting of informational signage in the area where the proposed amendment or installation of a traffic control device is requested. If the area is within a neighborhood with a Homeowners Association (HOA), then mailed notice shall also be given to the HOA. Mailed notice by regular mail and posting shall be no less than 10 days nor greater than 25 days from the date of the public hearing before City Council.

Appeals

Any resident may appeal the decision by the City Council within ten (10) days of the date of the public hearing in writing to the City Clerk’s Office.

Appendix 1

Application for Traffic Control Request Policy

Primary point of contact:

Name: _____ Address _____

Day phone _____

Neighborhood _____ Today's date _____

What is the location(s) of the change you propose and the reason for your request? Attach pages if necessary.

Type of traffic condition change requested (e.g. parking, STOP sign, street striping or markings, traffic direction of flow, etc.):

For Office Use Only

Date Application Received _____