Topic:	Healthy Communities; Traffic Calming & Safety
Resource Type:	Zoning Code
State:	Texas
Jurisdiction Type:	Municipal
Municipality:	San Antonio
Year *(adopted, written, etc.)***:**	2016
Community Type – applicable to:	Urban
Title:	Transportation and Street Design
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Abstract

Section 35-506(t) of San Antonio's Unified Development Code states that the City has identified long, wide streets encourage speeding. The code requires that the length of blocks comply with section 35-15(b)(3); however, blocks can be lengthened if traffic calming features are implemented.

Approved traffic calming features include roundabouts, median islands, and "T" intersections.

The shorter block and increase in traffic calming features will cause residents to feel safer using alternative methods of transportation such as biking or walking. This will help decrease greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the overall health of the residents who will choose to walk or bike due to the increased safety.

Resource
San Antonio Unified Development Code

Sec. 35-506. - Transportation and Street Design.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to prescribe minimum design standards for streets within new subdivisions, developments requiring site plan approval, and for developments requiring a zoning permit. Unlike the situation in traditional subdivision regulations, one (1) intent of this section is to permit narrower street widths while requiring greater connectivity in order to more efficiently disperse traffic, accommodate bicyclists, protect pedestrians from high vehicular speeds, and to enhance the streetscape. For conventional subdivisions, commercial centers, and applications for development approval within conventional zoning district, the

existing street widths and design standards are retained in order to accommodate the heavier traffic levels and greater reliance on vehicular travel.

(t) Traffic Calming.

The purpose of this section is to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by ensuring that speeds on local streets are suitable for their intended purpose. The city hereby finds and determines that long blocks, wide street cross sections and uninterrupted traffic flows can encourage speeding on local and collector streets. Accordingly, these design standards will slow traffic on local streets while allowing flexibility in design and offering applicants the choice of treatment that works best for the streets in a proposed development.
   (1) Applicability. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to local and collector streets when any traffic control devices are proposed and shall be approved by both the city and the county when located in the ETJ.
   (2) Street Lengths. The length of street links shall comply with the block length standards established in subsection 35-515(b)(3) of this chapter.
   (3) Traffic Control Calming Features. A longer street length may be allowed through the placement of an approved traffic calming feature at a location which produces an unimpeded length of the street link which does not exceed the block length standards (subsection 35-515(b)(4)).

Table 506-8 provisions describe and establish standards for permitted traffic calming devices where traffic calming measures are permitted as part of the roadway design elements in subsection B, above. The descriptions in Table 506-8 are described in the document entitled R. Ewing, traffic calming: State of the Practice (Institute of Transportation engineers (ITE) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 1999), which document is hereby incorporated by this reference. In addition, the director of planning and development services shall seek concurrence from the Bexar County engineer for any type of traffic calming feature propose on residential roadways located in the ETJ as detailed in Table 506-8.

San Antonio's Code of Ordinances can be found here: https://library.municode.com/tx/san_antonio.