

Recommendation for Citizen Participation

Neighborhood Speed Watch

One of the ways you can help to address periodic speeders is by borrowing a radar unit and participating in our Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. Using the radar unit, you can record information about vehicles you observe **traveling at or above 30 mph**. From this information, we will locate the registered owner of the vehicle and send a letter to them asking for their cooperation in reducing their speed. A partner to assist you with the data collection is recommended.



Radar Dolly

You can borrow and place a radar dolly on your street for up to two weeks. This unit gives motorists feedback on the speed at which they are driving, encouraging them to obey the speed limit. Please let me know if you are interested in using this radar unit or call (425) 452-6856 or sign up on www.bellevuewa.gov/radardolly.htm.



Police Enforcement

Enforcement is a tool that encourages motorists to change their driving behavior through the issuance of citations. If you would like to request additional enforcement in the future please do so by calling (425) 577-5656.



TRAFFIC ACTION PLAN



BELLEVUE
NEIGHBORHOOD
TRAFFIC
SAFETY
SERVICES

2011-012 145th Ave NE south of NE 4th St

February 29, 2012

Bellevue, WA 98007

Subject: Speeding Concerns SE of Odle Middle School

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services and letting us know your concerns on 145th Ave NE near Odle Middle School. We have completed our field reviews and data analysis of the location and would like to share with you our findings and recommendations.

To help us understand traffic conditions on this roadway, a speed study was conducted on October 18th, 2011 in the 200 block of 145th Avenue NE. During this 24 hour study, a total of 201 vehicles were recorded showing average speeds of 24 mph, with 85% of drivers traveling at or below 29 mph along this 25 mph neighborhood street.

Your specific concern addressed speeding during the drop-off and pick-up periods around the southeast perimeter of Odle Middle School. School starts at 7:45am and dismisses at 2:33pm, except on Wednesday when dismissal is at 1:23pm. While traffic volume from 7:00-8:00am and 2:00-3:00pm is considerably higher (18% of daily traffic) on school days, the speeds are comparable to other periods of the day. We also observed both morning arrival and afternoon dismissal at Odle and have detailed the results in this report.

You suggested the installation of speed humps and/or school zone signing in an effort to address vehicle speeds. Physical measures such as speed humps are limited to streets where the majority of vehicles are exceeding the posted speed limit by 10 mph. These guidelines were established based on the impact these measures have on emergency response, and reserving their use for those locations with significant speeding problems. On 145th Avenue NE, 15% of traffic would need to be traveling 35 mph or higher. Our studies show 29 mph or lower, which would not support the installation of speed humps on this roadway. As for school zone signing, the City does establish school zones, but only at elementary schools.

We actively work with the Bellevue School District on traffic safety issues such as congestion around drop-off and pickup concerns, working to educate both students and parents about traffic safety practices. To follow-up on this, we will contact Odle Middle School Administration and provide information for their newsletter to parents and students on driving and walking safety. Future opportunities also exist for working with the Bellevue School

District when Odle Middle School is renovated (anticipated 2014), to design better on-site traffic circulation for pick-up and drop-off of students.

With the economic downturn, many City programs saw significant funding reductions, including Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services. Because staffing and funding have been reduced, we are requesting the assistance of residents more than ever in our efforts to improve traffic safety. Speeds often decrease when residents actively participate in traffic education programs, such as through the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. You can address periodic speeds by borrowing a radar unit and recording information about vehicles you observe traveling above 30 mph. From this information, we will locate the registered owner of the vehicle and send a letter to them asking for their cooperation in reducing their speed. We also have a portable radar sign on a dolly that residents can borrow and place on their street for up to two weeks. This sign digitally displays to motorists the speed they are driving, encouraging them to obey the speed limit, in this case 25 mph.

In addition to the above education programs, enforcement is a key component to encourage safe driving behavior and lowering vehicle speeds. We have forwarded a copy of our speed study to Police Traffic for review of their enforcement efforts on 145th Avenue NE. They can be reached at 425-577-5656, if you'd like to contact them directly.

We appreciate your concerns and look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me at lglas@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2841 to participate in any of the education programs listed above.

Sincerely,

Linda Glas

Linda Glas
Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services
Transportation Department

c: Police Traffic



Images from corner of 145th Ave NE and NE 4th St



Vehicles observed dropping off students in the SW corner of 145th Ave NE and NE 4th St.



TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

■ = location of speed study

Data Collection: Drop-off and Pick-up Observations

Position	Date	Time	Students Walking	Vehicles Dropping Off Students	Vehicles Into Cul-de-sac	Drive-through Vehicles	% of Vehicles traveling south on 148 th Ave NE
A	2/7/12	7:10-7:48 am	12	50	27	2	28
	2/13/12	2:14-2:53 pm	11	13	6	3	27