

Next Steps

Here are tools we recommend you and your neighbors take active participation in as they have shown to be effective at reminding drivers that they are in a residential area. These tools allow you to become an integral part in the traffic safety process.

Education, encouragement, and enforcement

Neighborhood Speed Watch

Using a borrowed radar unit, you record information about vehicles you observe traveling at or above 30 mph. NTSS staff then 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.

Request by calling (425) 452-6856 or sign up on www.bellevuewa.gov/radardolly.htm.

Police Enforcement

If you would like to request enforcement, please do so by calling (425) 577-5656.

Sign and Pledge Program

This program involves lending communities portable signs that encourage motorists to respect the neighborhood, drive responsibly, and drive 25 mph. The signs are moved by community volunteers from place to place throughout the neighborhood every few days. The second part of the program is a neighborhood pace car program. Residents who pledge to drive responsibly and drive the speed limit on all neighborhood streets receive magnetic bumper stickers or window clings to place on their vehicles. As these motorists drive 25 mph on residential streets, they set the pace for drivers behind them.

Radar Trailer

The radar trailer is a portable trailer equipped with a radar unit which detects the speed of passing vehicles and displays the speed on a reader board. Like the radar dolly, the goal is to heighten drivers' awareness of both the speed at which they are traveling and the posted speed limit. This encourages drivers to adjust their speeds, if needed.



More information: Find out more about these recommendations in our Residential Traffic Guidebook or by logging on to Streets are for Everyone (SAFE)—Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services' blog.

Blog: http://bellevuentss.wordpress.com Guidebook: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/Guidebook_Web.pdf

TRAFFIC ACTION PLAN



2012-012 NE 12th Street east of 164th Avenue NE

[Redacted address]

December 7, 2012

Bellevue, WA 98008

Subject: Speeding Concerns on NE 12th Street east of 164th Avenue NE

Dear [Redacted name]

Thank you for contacting Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services and letting us know your concerns on NE 12th Street. We apologize for the delay in getting back to you, as it's taken longer to collect and analyze the speed data than anticipated. We have completed our field reviews and data analysis of the location and would like to share with you our findings and recommendations.

From the speed studies conducted at the end of October, of the 446 vehicles recorded 85% of those motorists were traveling 30 mph or lower on this 25 mph residential street. This is typical for neighborhood streets in Bellevue and does indicate that most drivers are driving appropriately for the roadway conditions. We realize there are those drivers who choose to drive faster than the posted speed limit and have some recommendations that may help address this concern.

First, we will be installing a "Residential Area" sign on NE 12th Street as you enter from 164th Avenue NE to heighten motorists' attention that they are entering a neighborhood. The sign is designed to promote a sense of community by showing graphics of a home, bike, pedestrian and vehicle. It has a supplemental plaque that states "Residential Area." A picture of the sign is contained in this report.

Second, we are looking at new ways to enhance the 25 MPH pavement markings. This may include the installation of additional markings, such as a box around the legend and/or painted speed bars. We are still working on this concept but would like to use NE 12th Street as a location for a pilot project. Once we have defined this further, we will contact you with our thoughts and look forward to having you as the neighborhood lead.

You had requested the installation of speed humps to address vehicle speeds. Based on our field reviews and the data collected, the use of physical measures such as speed humps are not recommended. In general, 15% of motorists would need to be exceeding 35 mph before these measures are implemented. The guidelines for physical measures were established to limit the use of physical measures to locations where speeds are higher and also limit the impact to emergency response. As an example, the use of speed humps reduces emergency response between 5 and 10 seconds per hump.

You had also requested the installation of a brick entry treatment on NE 12th as you enter from 164th Avenue NE. Typically these are done as part of an area wide traffic improvement project. At this time, we would like to see how the pilot project works before implementing something more physical. You had also asked about installation of a permanent radar sign. Our program only has funding to install two to four of these each year. As a result, we prioritize these locations based on a number of factors, such as speeds, volumes, reported accidents and pedestrian facilities. We did review NE 12th Street to determine its priority on the list. Based on the current requests and the present traffic conditions on NE 12th Street, it would be approximately 6-8 years before funding may become available.



Thank you for recently borrowing the radar dolly. We hope you found this to be effective in encouraging motorists to reduce their speeds. In addition to this program, we have other education programs. We'd like to have you consider our Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. You can address periodic speeders by borrowing a radar unit and recording the information about the vehicle you observe traveling above 30 mph. From this information, we locate the registered owner of the vehicle and send a letter to them from both Police and Transportation asking for their cooperation in reducing their speed.

We appreciate your concerns and look forward to working with you on the pilot project. In the interim, please contact me at lglas@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2841 to participate in any of the education programs described in this Traffic Action Plan.

Sincerely,


Linda Glas, P.E.
 Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services
 Transportation Department

Existing Conditions



Summary of Findings

You were concerned about speeding along NE 12th Street. The findings below are supported by the data found on the bottom of this page.

Speeding
 Based on our field reviews and the data collected, the use of physical measures, such as speed humps are not recommended. In general, physical measures are triggered when 15% of motorists are exceeding the posted speed limit by 10 mph. The results from these studies indicate that none of the locations meet this guideline.

These guidelines were established to limit the use of physical measures to locations where speeds are higher and also limit the impact to emergency response. As an example, the use of speed humps reduces emergency response between 5-10 seconds per hump.

Furthermore, speeds and volume actually decreased between 2009 and 2012.



View of NE 12th Street at 166th Place NE facing east toward 25 mph pavement marking



A Residential Area sign, like this one, will be installed on NE 12th St as you enter from 164th Ave NE

Speed and volume results

Turn over for recommendations on what you can do 

Date	Street	Average Daily Traffic	Average Speeds		85% Speeds*	
			Eastbound	Westbound	Eastbound	Westbound
2009	NE 12th at 166th Ave NE	510	26	25	31	30
2012	NE 12th at 166th Ave NE	446	25	25	29	30

*85% of vehicles traveling at or below this speed

