

# NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC *news*

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for letting us know your concerns regarding traffic on NE 5th Street and 99th Avenue NE. We have completed our field reviews and data analysis of these locations and would like to share with you our findings.

In conversations with City staff, you noted a concern with cut-through traffic on NE 5th Street and 99th Avenue NE. We consider cut-through traffic to be vehicles using neighborhood streets to bypass arterials. We reviewed the peak hour traffic volumes recorded during our recent studies and believe there are motorists using these streets to bypass congestion on local arterials (see table below).

The most effective way to address cut-through traffic is through the installation of physical traffic calming measures. According to our guidelines, streets with 20% or more cut-through traffic volumes in the peak hours can qualify for engineering measures, such as partial and/or full closures. For this reason, a partial closure was built on NE 4th Street, west of 100th Avenue NE in the mid 1990's. A license plate study would be required in order to determine the level of cut-through traffic currently using NE 5th Street and 99th Avenue NE. During this study, staff would record the license plate numbers of all vehicles entering and exiting the neighborhood. At this time due to budget issues there is no need for us to conduct this staff-intensive study because we are only able to recommend education and enforcement measures regardless of the cut-through traffic levels in your neighborhood.



Direction of Travel on 99th Ave	Number of Vehicles	Direction of Travel on NE 5th	Number of Vehicles
<b>7 AM to 9 AM</b>			
Southbound on 99th Ave	20	Eastbound on NE 5th	28
Northbound on 99th Ave	39	Westbound on NE 5th	20
<b>4 PM to 6 PM</b>			
Southbound on 99th Ave	66	Eastbound on NE 5th	43
Northbound on 99th Ave	46	Westbound on NE 5th	52



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The City is currently experiencing a significant reduction in revenues due to the economic downturn. In order to meet these lower revenue projections, there are a number of citywide services proposed for elimination and/or reductions. The installation of physical measures, such as speed humps and/or partial closures, is one of the services proposed for elimination.

The City Council is in the process of developing the 2011/2012 Budget. Citizen involvement is important to the overall budget process. Should you wish to participate, we encourage you to do so by emailing the Council at [council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov), or by attending a City Council meeting. More information on addressing the Council can be found at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/5013.htm>. A final determination of service cuts is anticipated for early December of this year.

Another request of yours was for an all-way stop to be added on 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street to address traffic speeds and sight-distance concerns. Stop signs are not used for speed control because there can be a high incidence of motorists intentionally violating the unwarranted stop signs. As for limited visibility at the intersection, Transportation staff reviewed the intersection today and found it to meet our sight-distance guidelines. However, he has asked the adjacent household to keep an eye on their landscaping and trim it when needed. Stop signs are generally installed to address issues such as high volumes and accidents. New signs are reviewed and ordered by our Traffic Engineering group. We have forwarded your request to Hillary Stibbard, Traffic Engineering Manager. She will assign an engineer to study whether or not additional stop signs are warranted at 99<sup>th</sup> and NE 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Hillary at [hstibbard@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:hstibbard@bellevuewa.gov) 425-452-4357.

Although physical traffic calming measures cannot be installed on NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street or 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, there are a number of education programs, which are effective at heightening motorists' awareness of the speed limit. Borrowing a radar dolly, for example, would give you a better idea of traffic conditions on your street while also encouraging speeding motorists to slow down. If you would like to participate in the Radar Dolly Program, please contact Brian Casey at [bcasey@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bcasey@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-6867. We encourage you and your neighbors to participate in the Neighborhood Speed Watch and Neighborhood Speed Reduction Programs found at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic-calming-phase-1.htm>. Another option available to you to address motorists choosing to drive faster than the posted speed limit is to contact the Police and request enforcement. We encourage you to call them at 425-577-5656.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with us. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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