

Concerned about Speeding in your Neighborhood?

Speeding on residential roads is one of the top complaints reported to the Engineering and Police Departments. Studies have shown that all demographics of drivers contribute to this issue including residents, commuters, and school aged drivers. Residents may speed because they are familiar and comfortable on the roadways they travel regularly while others may use them as short cuts.



Interested in learning how to change this and slow traffic in your neighborhood? You truly can make a difference! See below for common questions, answers, and tips to help you improve traffic safety in your neighborhood.

Will more STOP signs slow traffic on our street?

When installed under the correct conditions, STOP signs can increase intersection safety. However, stop signs installed at locations which do not meet minimum requirements can actually decrease safety and create additional problems. Federal and State standards (warrants) have been established to determine when all-way STOP signs should be installed. These standards consider traffic speed, the number of vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles, intersection sight distance, and the frequency of gaps in traffic to allow safe vehicle entry or pedestrian crossing.



Studies have shown that when all-way stops are installed at locations that do not meet requirements, they do little to slow traffic. Unwarranted stop signs are, at times, ignored by drivers on the main street, putting pedestrians and cross-traffic at a higher risk. Speeds within a block of unwarranted stop signs are typically unchanged. Drivers have to slow down when approaching a stop sign,

but often speed up quickly to make up for lost time. In addition, stopping and starting causes an increase in tire and engine noise and an increase in air pollution.

Unwarranted STOP signs:

- Do not stop speeding
- Increase risk to bicyclists and pedestrians
- Increase air and noise pollution
- Waste Fuel

Will a lower speed limit help reduce speeding?

Many studies have concluded that a driver's speed is influenced by the existing conditions of a roadway, not the posted speed limit. As a result, changes in posted speed limits have little to no effect on vehicle speeds.

Maximum speed limits in the State of Indiana are set by the Indiana Motor Vehicle Code.



Reducing speed limits:

- Does not change most drivers' speed
- Must be warranted
- Cannot be upheld in court

The maximum speed limit in an urban district is 30 mph and 15 mph in an alley. All other speed limits must be established based on engineering studies which look at roadway conditions, crash records and the existing speeds at which the majority of vehicles travel.

Will 'Children at Play' signs help slow vehicles?

Warning signs are used to bring attention to unusual hazards along the road. Too many signs can lead to "sign pollution" causing unnecessary distraction, often irritating and confusing drivers in the process.

"Children at Play" signs have little or no effect on the behavior of motorists and there have been no indications these signs reduce pedestrian-involved collisions. Since drivers tend to pay little attention to these signs, parents

and children may feel a false sense of security. For this reason, the signs have been removed from the federal list of approved traffic control signs and are not eligible for installation on roadways.

Specific warning signs for school zones and crosswalk locations are available, and have been shown to be effective when properly installed.

“Children at Play” signs:

- Have little effect on driver behavior
- Give pedestrians, children and parents a false sense of security

Can our neighborhood have speed humps installed?

Speed humps are raised pavement areas in the roadway surface that extend across the travel way to slow vehicle speeds. A speed “hump” is a gradual rise in the pavement surface and is used on public streets, unlike a speed “bump” which is an abrupt change in pavement height typically used for private driveways and parking lots. Studies have shown that speed humps aid in reducing vehicle speeds and decreasing traffic volumes in their immediate vicinity.

Speed hump installations have negative effects that should be considered as part of the evaluation. Once installed, residents living near speed humps often complain of increased noise as vehicles traverse the speed humps (vehicles may hit the brakes and speed up immediately after). Traffic may divert to adjacent parallel streets to avoid the speed humps. In addition, emergency vehicle response will be slowed. Finally, there is significant cost for installation and maintenance.



Speed humps are generally avoided and only installed on roadways that meet certain criteria established by the City. Evaluated criteria include the existing vehicle speeds, number of vehicles, proximity to adjacent STOP and YIELD signs, and location of emergency vehicle response routes.

What can residents do?

Drive Slower

The maximum legal speed on a residential street is 30 mph (unless posted otherwise). Drive 30 mph or less; give yourself more time to react to the unexpected, you may be driving faster than you should. Do not rush - leave a little earlier and give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination.

Avoid Using Neighborhood Streets as Short Cuts

Using residential streets as short cuts impacts neighborhood quality of life. Cut-through traffic increases noise, pollution, and decreases safety for children, pedestrians, and pets.

Be an Active Reporter

If there are problems along your street such as damaged or missing signs, pothole or vegetation blocking line of sight, please notify the Engineering Department at

(574) 534-2201

or

engineering@goshencity.com

Observe all the Rules of the Road

Don't be a speeder, be a leader! Be alert and don't take chances - even on short trips. Statistics show that most crashes occur close to home.

Set the Pace

Driving at or below the 30 mph speed limit forces those behind you to follow at your safe, respectful pace.

Report Speeding Vehicles

Help us help you! If you notice vehicles speed more at a particular time of day, or day of week, call the Goshen Police Department's non-emergency phone number at (574) 533-4151.