

Each year the City of Hillsboro receives many requests from citizens seeking assistance to address neighborhood traffic concerns. Often the focus of these concerns is vehicle speeds. To effectively discourage inappropriate driving behaviors and make efficient use of limited funds, the City of Hillsboro has developed a two-phased process for addressing these concerns.

## PROCESS

### PHASE I: EDUCATION/ENFORCEMENT

In most cases, speeding is not the result of an intentional decision to break the law but is instead a poor habit. In many cases, violators are local residents who live within the neighborhood that are unaware they are speeding. Education and enforcement are often all that is needed to resolve citizen concerns.

The City of Hillsboro Police Department has established several programs designed to raise drivers' awareness of their speeds.

#### Neighborhood Speed Watch

The Neighborhood Speed Watch Program is a public awareness program in which concerned citizens can take an active role in solving the problem of speeders in their own neighborhoods. Through the program, citizens check out a radar unit from the Police Department. Speeds and license numbers of cars traveling in excess of speed designations are recorded and returned with the radar unit. The registered owners of those vehicles on the list are sent a confidential courtesy letter from the City asking them to reduce their speeds. The **letters are not citations**, but reminders about the posted speed and the community's concern for safety. The City of Hillsboro requests that citizens who have concerns regarding vehicle speeds participate in this program before advancing to the second phase of this process.

#### Speed Cart Program

The Speed Cart Program is another public awareness program designed to educate drivers. Under this program, a cart housing a radar unit and reader board is placed on the street. The cart displays the speed of all approaching vehicles and flashes the speed of vehicles traveling in excess of posted speeds.

#### Phantom Police Unit

Some violations are the result of drivers' belief that there is little risk of being caught. To remind potential speeders of the possibility of enforcement, the City of Hillsboro also has available an unmanned patrol car that may be requested by citizens. It can be placed in a neighborhood for brief periods to make drivers think about their speed.

For more information about these programs, to schedule these programs, or to request additional enforcement contact the City of Hillsboro Police Department at 503-681-6190.

### PHASE II: ENGINEERING

Many traffic safety concerns can be resolved through education and enforcement. Occasionally, some concerns may be more properly addressed by changing roadway features.

The types of changes implemented should be tailored to the specific concerns and roadway attributes. Solutions may involve any number of tools including:

- increased signage
- crosswalks
- landscaping
- lane narrowing
- pinch points
- curb extensions
- traffic circles
- medians
- pedestrian refuge islands
- speed humps

## WHERE TO BEGIN

If you have a neighborhood traffic safety concern that involves speeding, the City asks that you participate in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program through the Hillsboro Police Department before continuing further. If you have participated in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program and your concerns have not eased, place your concerns and requests in writing and send them to the Public Works Department, Engineering Division, 150 E Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Please include the following information in your letter to assist us:

- a. Your name, address, and daytime phone number that we may utilize to contact you. We would also appreciate a fax number and/or email address if either is available.
- b. The location(s) where your problem(s) is(are) occurring.
- c. The nature of the problem(s) (ie: vehicle speeds, traffic volumes, pedestrian safety, etc.). Please be as descriptive as possible and be sure to include times of days and/or days of week when the problems occur.

## WHO DECIDES?

The decision to implement physical changes is made by the City of Hillsboro Street Committee based on recommendations by the City Engineer. Traffic volumes, street characteristics, traffic speeds, pedestrian volumes, and accident histories are considered as part of this recommendation. Additionally, consideration is given to the ability of measures to address the neighborhood concerns, availability of funds to implement such measures, and citizen comments.

## WHAT IS THE STREET COMMITTEE?

The City of Hillsboro Street Committee is comprised of three City Councilors. The Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Hillsboro Civic Center located at 150 E Main Street to hear issues related to streets and traffic. Street Committee meetings are open to the public.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### 1. Receipt of Request

Once the City receives your request, the City will schedule your request for consideration by the City of Hillsboro Street Committee. Engineering will notify you that your letter has been received and inform you of the scheduled date and time your request will be presented to the Street Committee.

### 2. Investigation

Prior to presentation to the Street Committee, Engineering will look into your concerns and assess the extent of the problem. Traffic volumes, street characteristics, traffic speeds, pedestrian volumes, and accident histories are all factors in this investigation.

### 3. Street Committee Consideration

Engineering will present the findings of the investigation to the Street Committee. The Street Committee meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to attend at the time your item is presented to the Street Committee. Information regarding the time, date, and location of the meeting at which your request will be heard will be forwarded to you upon receipt of the letter however, on the Friday prior to the meeting, a copy of the Street Committee Agenda and any information related to your request will be mailed or faxed to you. At the time of the meeting you will be given an

opportunity to speak on behalf of your concerns and present additional information.

### 4. Course of Action

The Street Committee will recommend a course of action related to your concerns. Solutions may involve immediate implementation of measures, further investigation, coordination with outside agencies, consideration by adjacent properties, or simply a recommendation to continue with education and enforcement efforts. Each situation is unique and as a result, the course of action recommended by the Street Committee is tailored to address that situation. It may also be necessary to seek City Council approval to implement some recommendations by the Street Committee.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, please contact the City of Hillsboro Engineering Division at (503) 681-6146 or check out our website at [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/Engineering/](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/Engineering/).

## OTHER INFORMATION SERIES TOPICS

Additional information series brochures are also available through the City of Hillsboro Engineering Division on the following topics:

- STOP SIGNS
- VISUAL CLEAR ZONES
- SPEED ZONING

## CITY OF HILLSBORO INFORMATION SERIES

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## NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING



CITY OF HILLSBORO

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