



Traffic Action Plan

City of Mukilteo Traffic Calming Program

July 20, 2021

TC: 2020-010

Mukilteo, WA 98275

Re: Speeding Concerns on 76th St SW

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the City of Mukilteo and sharing your concerns with vehicle speeds on 76th St SW. We have completed a field review and data analysis of two locations on 76th St SW and compiled the information into this Traffic Action Plan (TAP), as well as our recommendations.

Speed studies were conducted on 76th St SW near 46th Ave W and near 48th Ave W. The locations were selected to capture the highest speeds possible based on the information you provided in the Request for Action form. The speed study began on March 23, 2021 and ended on April 5, 2021. The study shows 85% of motorists are traveling at or below 30.0 mph near 46th Ave W and at or below 37.0 mph near 48th Ave W. The average daily traffic traveling near 46th Ave W was 3,686, and 1,593 cars traveling near 48th Ave W during the 14 day speed study. Data from the study is summarized in the table on the next page.

One of the pieces of information that is used in the City's traffic calming program is 85th percentile speeds. The 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85% of the traveling speed is traveling at or below. This speed is important because it is the speed the federally adopted Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices recommends using for setting speed limits. Based off the 85th percentile speed and traffic volumes shown in the traffic study, the City has prepared a Traffic Action Plan.

- The Police Department has added this location to the extra patrol list for additional traffic emphasis patrols.
- The City will install additional speed limit signs, speed limit sign 'flags' 76th St SW this Fall / Winter.
- "Your Speed Is" signs are tentatively planned to be added to the School Zone signs this Fall / Winter. These installations are dependent on adjacent property acceptance.
- Additional traffic calming measures are suggested on page 3 which the neighborhood is encouraged to participate in.
- A follow up study will be conducted in approximately 6 months in order to determine any follow up needs.

The City did take into account your suggestions from your 8/11/2020 Traffic Calming Request for Action form, and as described above we will add "Your Speed Is" signs and additional emphasis patrols.

I did want to provide more information from our Traffic Calming Program on stop signs and why they are not used for traffic calming:

It seems like an obvious, inexpensive way to reduce vehicle speeds. However, what seems to be a perfect solution can actually create a less desirable situation. When stop signs are used as "nuisances" or "speed breakers", there is a high incidence of drivers intentionally violating the stop. When vehicles do stop, the speed reduction is effective only in the immediate area of the stop sign, since a large percentage of motorists then increase their speed to make up for lost time. This results in increased mid-block speeds. For these reasons, we do not use stop signs for speed control solutions. Instead, they are used to improve safety at intersections where traffic volumes or accidents require their installation.

I also wanted to let you know that there is a [pedestrian improvement project on 76th St and near the SR 525 school crossing](#) that is scheduled for construction this Fall.

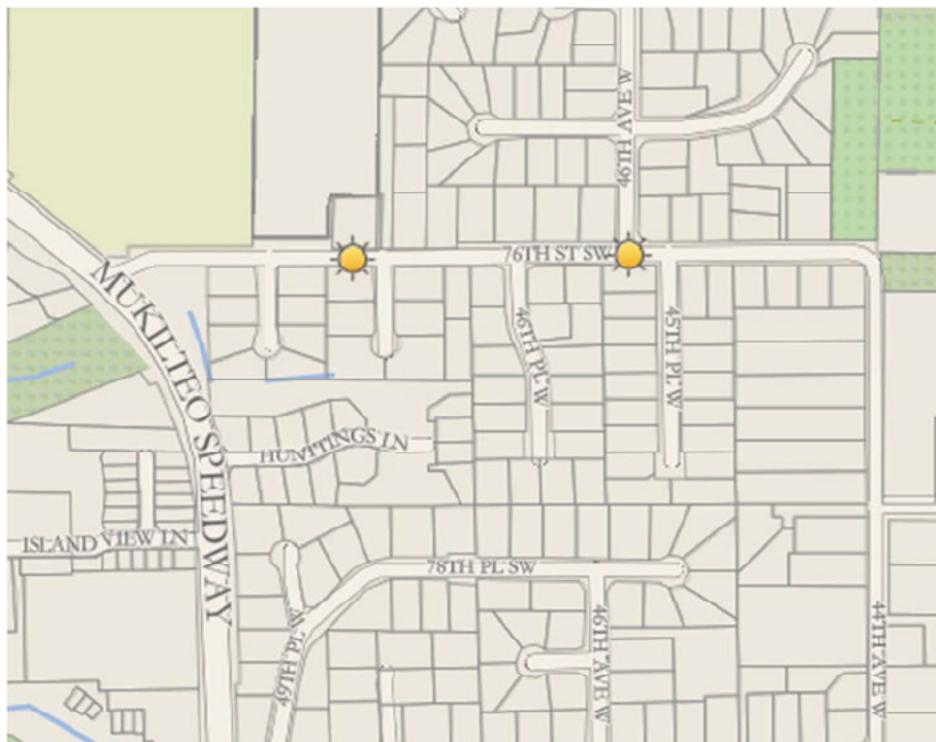
Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with us. We look forward to working with you and your neighbors on the programs suggested to address your traffic concerns. Please feel free to contact Connie Bowers at cbowers@mukilteo.wa.gov or 425.263.8080 regarding any of the information in this TAP.

Sincerely,


Andrea Swisstack (Jul 20, 2021 15:59 PDT)
Andrea Swisstack P.E.
Public Works/City Engineer


Cheol Kang
Police Chief

Location of Speed Studies



Summary of Findings

Date	Location	Average Daily Traffic	Average Speeds	85% of vehicles traveling at or below this speed
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 46 th Ave W —Eastbound	1,878	23 MPH	29 MPH
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 46 th Ave W —Westbound	1,808	25 MPH	30 MPH
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 46 th Ave W —Merged	3,686	24 MPH	29 MPH
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 48 th Ave W —Eastbound	718	30 MPH	34 MPH
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 48 th Ave W —Westbound	874	32 MPH	37 MPH
3/23 – 4/5/2021	76 th St SW at 48 th Ave W —Merged	1,593	31 MPH	36 MPH

Customized Traffic Action Plan for 76th St SW

Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement

By educating the community and encouraging safe driving, we can begin to change driver behavior and reduce vehicle speeds.

Speed Limit Alert Flags

The City uses alert flags on speed limit signs to help draw driver's attention to the posted speed limit.



"Your Speed Is" Signs

Stationary radar signs direct a driver's attention to the posted speed limit and digitally display the speed of the driver's vehicle on a large message board. The instant feedback results in a greater awareness of the speed limit and encourages motorists to adjust their speed accordingly, if needed. Locations are based on prioritized scoring criteria and available funding. Scoring criteria considers vehicle speed, traffic volume, street conditions, proximity to schools and parks, and reported accident history. After locations are determined, residents in the proposed locations for the signs must support the installation before proceeding to final design and construction.



Installation of these signs usually requires a petition process of the surrounding neighbors to determine if a lighted device is acceptable to the community. Because this particular installation is planned to be added to existing lighted devices a petition process will not be required. An agreement from the abutting property for the sign closest to SR 525 will be needed as it's proposed to move the sign slightly farther away from the highway.

Radar Trailer/Dolly



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

Police Officers or Police Volunteers will place the radar trailer or dolly at location as requested. The Police Department may use the trailer as a "speed checkpoint" and have an officer present to issue citations to violators.

Neighborhood Speed Watch Programs

The Neighborhood Speed Watch is a public awareness program that provides citizens with partnership opportunities in solving speeding problems in their neighborhood. Residents can monitor the actual speed of vehicles with radar equipment on loan from the Police Department. A short 1 hour training session is provided to the requestor by City staff. The requestor collects motorists' data and submits the results to City Staff.



Police volunteers are also trained to utilize portable radar equipment where they can record the license plate numbers of those motorists driving at least 5 mph above the posted speed limit. A letter is sent from the Police Department to the registered owners of those vehicles informing them of the observed violation and encourages them or the other drivers of their vehicle to drive at or below the posted speed limit. Since this is a community awareness program, no formal citations or fines are issued.

My Action Plan for 76th St SW

Are you feeling inspired to take action to address the traffic concerns for 76th St SW?

Here is a checklist to help you get started:

- Talk to my neighbors and share the City's findings and recommendations

- List interested neighbors who want to help me with efforts:

Decide the educational programs we want to participate in:

- Neighborhood Speed Watch Programs
Contact City staff at 425.263.8100 to set-up a training session for the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program, and get materials.
Email the Crime Prevention Volunteers to conduct neighborhood speed watches at crimeprevention@mukilteowa.gov.

- Radar Trailer/Dolly—I am willing for it to be placed in my driveway.
To request a radar speed trailer be placed at a particular location, call 425.263.8100.

Notes:

2020-010 76th St SW Traffic Action Plan

Final Audit Report

2021-07-21

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