

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Phase I

The Transportation Department brings the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program to a neighborhood when a resident completes an online [Request for Action form](#). Staff then reviews the situation. If traffic problems are confirmed, the first phase of the program begins. Suggestions from area residents, data from speed studies and accident histories help determine which of the following possible solutions will be pursued over the period of a year:

- **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Newsletters**
Contains information about your neighborhood's safety concerns, explains the results of the Transportation Department's speed and volume studies and recommends "traffic calming" measures -- ways to slow traffic in your neighborhood. In addition, traffic and pedestrian safety basics are covered.
- **Neighborhood Speed Reduction Program**
This neighborhood-sponsored program empowers residents to decrease speeds in their own community through the use of informational signs, and "pace cars," in which residents pledge to drive responsibly and the posted speed limit, setting the pace for cars behind them.
- **Neighborhood Speed Watch Program**
Local residents monitor the speed of vehicles traveling through their neighborhood with radar equipment on loan from the Transportation Department. Residents can report motorists traveling in their neighborhood at least 5 mph over the posted speed limit. Letters signed by Transportation and Police Department staff are sent to the motorists.
- **Pavement Markings**
Some streets may qualify for pavement markings, where "25 mph" is painted or applied in tape to the street. These markings heighten motorists' awareness of the posted speed limit.
- **Portable Radar Units**
Portable radar units or "dollies" track vehicle speeds and display them for passing motorists. Residents can borrow a portable radar unit from the city and post it in their neighborhood for up to two weeks. If you would like to borrow a radar unit, please read the [instructions](#) for using one and complete the [online loan and usage agreement](#).
- **Signing**
The city does not install stop signs or "Children at Play" signs for speed control. Speed limit signs are installed for school zones (20 miles per hour) and at points where drivers tend to enter neighborhoods. The speed limit on residential streets is 25 miles per hour.
- **Police enforcement**
The Transportation Department works closely with the Bellevue Police Department to enforce speed limits and other traffic laws in neighborhoods. Using key traffic data, groups of officers form Neighborhood Action Teams and focus their patrols on the times and places where speeding most often occurs.
- **Trimming brush**
For safety reasons, keep at least a seven-foot clearance between tree branches and the roadway or sidewalk. Brush near corners and driveways should be no more than 30 inches tall.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Phase II

If the various traffic restraining measures employed in Phase I of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program fail to eliminate reported traffic problems, physical changes may be made to streets. If residents still have concerns and the location meets city guidelines, the location will be reviewed for the possible installation of physical devices, such as medians, speed humps or traffic circles. Phase II of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program includes:

- **Entry Treatments**
Entry treatments include raised islands in the center of a roadway or stamped brick in the pavement. Either treatment identifies the entrance to a neighborhood. Entry treatments notify drivers that they are entering a neighborhood or residential area and can discourage non-local traffic.

- **Medians**

Raised islands placed in the center of a roadway to separate opposing traffic. They can be placed mid-block or at entrances into neighborhoods. Medians narrow the roadway, which tends to slow traffic. Typically, medians are landscaped to provide visual enhancement.

- **Roadway Narrowing and Closures**

Curb extensions narrow the roadway at intersections or mid-block between intersections. They can be used in conjunction with speed humps or raised crosswalks to slow vehicles and make an area more pedestrian-friendly.



- **Speed Humps**

Used in Bellevue since 1985 as a technique to reduce vehicle speeds, speed humps are raised areas of pavement approximately three inches high and 12 or 22 feet long. Different than the more severe speed bumps in many parking lots, street speed humps cause a vehicle's wheels to produce a rocking motion, creating an uncomfortable sensation for the vehicle occupants. Specific guidelines for the use of speed humps include speeds, volumes and roadway characteristics.

- **Stationary Radar Signs**

These signs direct a motorist's attention to the posted speed limit and display the speed of the driver's vehicle on a large message board. Stationary radar signs are installed according to city [guidelines](#). More information about radar signs in Bellevue can be found in the [Stationary Radar Sign Program 2009 Report](#). You can request a radar sign [online](#).

- **Traffic Circles**

Raised circular islands constructed in the center of intersections. This design requires vehicles to keep right and travel through the intersection in a counter-clockwise direction around the island. Traffic circles can be placed at both four-way and three-way intersections.

- **Closures**

Partially or fully closing a neighborhood street to reduce driving speeds and/or cut-through traffic. A full closure is a measure of last resort and is only considered if other less restrictive physical measures have failed.

Guidelines have been established for when and where each of these street modifications may be used. Based on the data collected and the topography of the area, a device or combination of devices may be recommended. Area residents are involved in the process. Neighborhood meetings are held, and majority support is required before proceeding with the construction of the physical device.

A number of Phase II Traffic Calming projects have been recently completed or are in progress in Bellevue neighborhoods. Find out about these projects on the [Projects in Your Neighborhood map](#).