

CONCLUSION

Please contact me at rrodni@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6160 if you would like to discuss our programs in more detail, or if you have any questions about our upcoming striping project. Again, we appreciate you sharing your concerns with us and we look forward to working with you through our traffic safety programs.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rodni
Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services
Transportation Department

cc: [REDACTED]

TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Study Date	Traffic Volume*	85th Percentile Speeds**	Average Speeds
7/19/11(Tuesday)	2342	29 mph Northbound 28 mph Southbound	26 mph
7/16/11(Saturday)	1586	28 mph Northbound 28 mph Southbound	25 mph
6/26/95	2029	30 mph Northbound 28 mph Southbound	26 mph
5/25/94	2668	29 mph Northbound 29 mph Southbound	26 mph

*Traffic Volumes are the approximate number of vehicles counted during the 24-hour study.

**85th Percentile Speeds reflect the speed at or below which 85% of motorists are traveling.



traffic
analysis

Highland Drive, near SE 52nd PI
#2011-007, September 28, 2011

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing with us your continued concerns regarding Highland Drive SE traffic. We have completed our review of this location and would like to share with you our findings and an action plan to address your concerns.

Highland Drive has a posted speed limit of 25 mph and advisory speed signing of 20 mph near your home. It is one of the main routes serving several neighborhood areas with a combined total of over 3,000 households. It is also a main emergency response route for the Fire Department.

Volumes—Cut-through

A traffic volume study conducted in July recorded approximately 2,300 vehicles on Highland Drive. Given the large population this roadway serves, this traffic volume is not unusually high and indicates that there is no significant cut-through traffic occurring at this time.

Speeds

In addition to traffic volumes, speeds were also studied. Traffic speeds have remained consistent since they were first studied in 1994, with 85% of traffic traveling at or below 29 mph (see back page for details). The most recent study confirmed speeds remain too low to qualify the roadway for physical speed control measures, such as speed humps, which are limited to locations where 85% of traffic is traveling at or below 35 mph.

Accidents

A review of our accident tracking database has shown that in addition to the recent incident where your dog was injured, only two other accidents have been reported in the curve near your home since 1997. Although speed humps do slow down motorists who are driving well above the speed limit, their effectiveness in preventing accidents is limited, especially when irresponsible or impaired drivers are involved. Accidents are best addressed through enforcement or other engineering means.

Police Enforcement

Police Traffic officers conducting additional enforcement in August verified speeds are similar to those recorded in the speed studies. Officers witnessed no irresponsible driving during the four days enforcement occurred. In addition, speeds were low enough that no tickets were written.



Highland Drive, near SE 52nd PI
#2011-007



Neighborhood Transportation Services
Transportation Department
City of Bellevue
425-452-6856

www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_services.htm



ACTION PLAN

In order to help motorists more easily navigate the curve on Highland Drive, we have a plan to add a 4" white fogline on the west side of the roadway near SE 52nd Place. This shoulder striping will better delineate the curve and narrow the travel lane. Narrower lanes do have a tendency to reduce vehicle speeds, as well. We anticipate this project, detailed in the map below, to be installed within the next month, weather permitting.



Shoulder Striping Mock-up

FURTHER OPTIONS—TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

We understand that even with the new fogline you may have continued concerns regarding traffic in front of your home. To address this, we encourage you and your neighbors to participate in one of the following safety programs. We have found vehicle speeds drop when residents actively assist City staff in educating their neighbors about traffic safety.

Neighborhood Speed Reduction Program

As my supervisor, Karen Gonzalez, explained to you in your phone conversation, this neighborhood-sponsored program involves lending portable signs to the neighborhood, encouraging motorists to respect the neighborhood, drive responsibly and drive 25 mph. Along with the signs, a neighborhood Pace Car program is organized with residents setting the pace for the motorists following them by driving 25 mph.



We appreciate you volunteering to speak with neighbors to determine who is willing to assist you in this effort. As you discussed with Karen, please submit the names of your neighborhood volunteers so that we can move forward with bringing this program to Highland Drive.

Radar Dolly

We have a portable radar sign on a dolly residents can borrow and place on their street for up to two weeks. This unit gives motorists feedback on the speed at which they are driving, encouraging them to obey the speed limit. It would also give you a better idea of current traffic conditions.



Neighborhood Speed Watch

Another way you can help to address periodic speeders is by borrowing a radar unit and participating in our Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. Using the radar unit, you can record information about vehicles you observe traveling at or above 30 mph. From this information, we will locate the registered owners of the vehicles and send a letter to them asking for their cooperation in reducing their speed.

