

## ***Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program***

Citizens frequently express their concerns regarding traffic speeds and pedestrian safety in residential neighborhoods. The City established this neighborhood traffic program to address these concerns. The program involves a joint effort between the residents and the City in an effort to improve traffic safety in their neighborhoods.

### **What can you do to make the streets safer?**

#### ***As A Driver...***



*Know and obey the speed limits!*

The most common concern expressed to the City is about speeding traffic in residential neighborhoods. Speeding traffic is a concern to all of us.

The California Vehicle Code sets the prima facie speed limit in residential districts at 25 mph. Prima facie limits are considered by law to be safe and prudent under normal conditions. This lower speed limit allows for a greater reaction time and shorter necessary stopping distance to avoid a hazard in the roadway. A residential district is determined by the width of the roadway and the density of adjacent residential development.

Some residential streets may have a speed limit greater than the 25 mph prima facie speed limit because of the functional use of the street, the adjacent land use, the width of the street, or a previously set speed limit based on a radar survey.

*Watch for and yield to pedestrians in the roadway*

Pedestrians are commonly present in residential neighborhoods. A pedestrian has the right-of-way in marked or unmarked crosswalks at an intersection as long as they have used due care for their safety.

#### ***Plan your trips***

Combine your trips into a single trip with several destinations to reduce congestion and the urge to drive fast.

#### ***As A Parent...***

*Set a good example for your children*

Children often learn by watching and imitating their parents. Your actions as a driver, pedestrian or bicyclist should always set a good example.

*Do not encourage your children to play in the street*

Instead, encourage them to use their own yard, a neighbors yard, or a nearby park.

*Instruct children in the proper way to cross the street.*

Teach your children this simple rhyme:



Stop, look and listen  
Before you cross the street.  
Use your eyes,  
Use your ears,  
And then use your feet.

Tell children not to dawdle, but to cross quickly when safe to do so, and to continue watching for traffic until they are safely on the curb at the other side.

*Teach your children the safest route to school.*

Most Schools in the City have prepared suggested route to school maps that indicate the best routes for your children to take. These routes take advantage of signalized crossings and adult crossing guards. Copies of the routes can be obtained from the local school.

#### ***As A Resident...***

*Get involved*

Be aware of road conditions, traffic patterns and alternate routes to your destination. Be aware of the rules of the road as a pedestrian, bicyclist, or motorist.

Talk with your neighbors about traffic safety.

Be aware of existing conditions and notify the City when situations seem to create a problem. Think about ways in which these situations might be changed prior to contacting the City.

Report damaged, faded or missing traffic signs and help maintain good visibility by trimming landscaping. Especially important is sight distance at intersection corner lots.

### **What can the City do to help?**

#### ***Traffic Signs***



The City installs traffic signs to regulate parking, regulate speeds and to warn of traffic hazards. Residents can request that warning or regulatory signs be placed at appropriate locations to warn of hazards or regulate parking.



#### ***Street Lighting***

To increase the visibility of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles, the City installs street lighting in residential neighborhoods. This higher visibility generally leads to a reduction in accidents. The installation of street lighting has also shown to reduce neighborhood crime.

### ***Maintain The Roadway System***

Report damaged sidewalk or streets, as well as missing or old signs. The City has maintenance crews that will repair damages to the infrastructure. Repair of sidewalk is the responsibility of the property owner, the City will notify the property owner if damaged sidewalk is reported. Contact the Street Maintenance Division at 326-3111 for more information.

## ***Radar Trailer***

The City has a radar trailer that is used as a monitoring device. The trailer is equipped with a radar gun, a digital speed display, and a speed limit sign. The trailer is placed on the street facing traffic and will show Speed Limit 25, Your Speed XX. The radar gun will measure the speed of the oncoming vehicle and show that speed on the display.

The use of this trailer has shown to significantly reduce the speed of vehicle traffic. Many drivers do not realize how fast they drive on residential streets. The radar trailer is a tool that helps educate the public.

In conjunction with the radar trailer use on residential streets, the Police Department can follow up with increased enforcement. Residents may contact the Police Department at 326-3896 to request that the trailer be placed on their street.

## ***Police Enforcement***

In working with City staff, the Police Department will target specific areas for increased enforcement for a short period of time. Use of this targeted enforcement during appropriate times of the day has demonstrated a reduction in traffic violations as well as a greater awareness of driving habits. To request increased speed enforcement contact the Police Department at 326-3896.



## ***Traffic Engineering***

The City's Traffic Engineering Section is available to discuss concerns you may have regarding neighborhood traffic safety. Call the traffic engineering phone line at 326-3724, or come to the public counter on the ground floor of the Annex Building at City Hall.

## ***Citizen Concerns***

The City takes our role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the motorist in Bakersfield. Although we receive over 200 citizen requests per year, we try to investigate your request as quickly as work load permits. We will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

## ***Other Traffic Information Brochures Available***

Adult School Crossing Guards  
Left Turn Traffic Signals  
Marked Crosswalks  
Neighborhood Traffic Safety  
School Routes  
Speed Bumps  
Speed Limits  
Stop Signs & Traffic Signals  
Traffic Signal Systems

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# ***Neighborhood Traffic Safety***



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