

Program Overview

Improved neighborhood traffic safety requires a balanced approach from both citizens and the County. When residents contact the County with concerns, the process for identifying traffic safety solutions utilizes the three “E”s:

EDUCATION

The first step involves efforts to educate motorists. Examples of education techniques may include brochures, meetings, radar speed signs, etc.

ENFORCEMENT

The Sheriff’s Department can be asked to conduct special enforcement in the area. Note that availability of this is limited.

ENGINEERING

The engineering component of the program includes gathering data, evaluation, and making appropriate changes to signage, striping, etc.

Next Steps

If the concerns persist, the neighborhood may choose to pursue implementation of physical traffic calming devices such as speed humps.

The process is detailed and includes a requirement of a neighborhood petition and 65% resident support for installation. The cost of construction and maintenance is the responsibility of the neighborhood. The County’s Engineering Department can provide detailed information and assistance with this process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we add stop signs?

This is a common request, and the short answer is ‘no’, not for traffic calming purposes. Numerous studies showed that installing stop signs has no effect on overall speeds, as drivers often speed up between stop signs to "make up for lost time". In addition, safety issues can arise from drivers intentionally ignoring unwarranted stop signs.

Can we reduce the speed limit?

Speed limits cannot simply be chosen, but are set based upon a state statutory speed or on the basis of an engineering study that considers numerous criteria. Many studies have shown that most motorists drive at a speed that they consider safe and reasonable - so arbitrarily lowering speed limits, without consistent enforcement, has little effect on travel speeds.

If we pursue a traffic calming program, will it be effective?

A program can be successful. It typically depends on a balanced and multi-faceted approach as well as a strong consensus in the neighborhood to address the issue and willingness by residents to take part.

Answers to questions, additional information, and program specifics for neighborhood traffic safety are available by contacting:

Larimer County
Engineering Department
970-498-5700
Email: Eng-traffic@larimer.org

Neighborhood Traffic Safety

*A partnership of
citizens and government
working together to make
our neighborhoods safer and
more pleasant places to live.*



Neighborhood Traffic Safety

A regular and sometimes emotional complaint received by Larimer County is speeding and “cut-through” driving on neighborhood streets. Each year, residents from various areas ask the county to “do something” about the problem.

There is no singular, easy solution to addressing neighborhood traffic safety. Instead, effective traffic management relies on numerous approaches, both short and long term, and is most successful as a partnership between citizens and the County.

This brochure outlines:

1. How you can be instrumental in making your neighborhood more livable where motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists can utilize the streets in harmony, and
2. What the County can do to provide assistance in implementing traffic calming measures for your neighborhood.

Things That You Can Do to Make Your Streets Safer

AS A DRIVER...

KNOW AND OBEY THE SPEED LIMITS!

The most common concern in neighborhood safety is speeding traffic. Yet the VAST majority of traffic utilizing a local street is actually from residents that live in the area. Therefore, if you and your neighbors slow down, the speeding issue is minimized.

WATCH FOR AND YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are often present in residential areas. A pedestrian has the right-of-way in a marked or unmarked crosswalks as long as they have used due care for their safety.

AS A PARENT...

SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Children learn by watching and imitating their parents. Our 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, a nearby park, or an open space.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE SAFETY

Provide specific and detailed information to your children on the proper use of a road as a pedestrian or cyclist.

AS A RESIDENT...

TALK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Express your concerns to a neighborhood speeder and make a friendly request to drive more slowly.

PARTICIPATE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meet with your Home Owners Association to discuss concerns about your road.

REPORT CONCERNS AND TRIM VEGETATION

Report damaged, faded, or missing traffic signs to the County and help maintain good visibility by trimming landscaping – especially at intersection corner lots.

Things The County Can Do

PROVIDE INFORMATION

The Engineering Department can discuss safety with your neighborhood, help identify specific traffic concerns, and provide information such as this brochure.

GATHER AND ANALYZE DATA

The Engineering Department can verify road conditions, review crash data, and gather traffic speeds and traffic volumes on a specific street.

INSTALL SIGNS

Traffic signs can improve safety by identifying speed limits, controlling intersections, and warning motorists of items such as turns, crosswalks, etc. Please note that the County does not install stop signs for use as traffic calming devices.

STRIPE ROADWAYS

Installing crosswalks and bike lanes when appropriate can enhance road safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

SPOT ENFORCEMENT

Residents may request increased enforcement of speed limits from the County’s Sheriff Department at 970-498-5547.

Things That We Can Do Together

USE A MOBILE RADAR SPEED SIGN

The County has two mobile radar speed signs. The signs can be installed on a temporary basis in a neighborhood to heighten awareness of driving speeds on a residential street.