

NEIGHBORHOOD SPEED WATCH PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Speed Watch Program is a public awareness program through which concerned citizens can take an active role in helping to change driver behavior on their neighborhood streets.

Often, drivers are unaware of their speed or of the impact their speed has on the residents they are passing. Real time speed awareness will encourage speeding motorists to slow down.

You may request a radar speed display unit from the Temecula Sheriff Police Department, so that citizens can monitor speeds along their street. The unit displays the speed limit for the street and the travel speed of passing cars. As the participants record the speeds, they will get a true perception of what the travel speed is on their streets.

Posting reduced speed limits alone will not change driver behavior. Educating drivers and residents is equally important. Getting residents involved, since they are the primary travelers in their neighborhoods, will work to reduce the travel speed on these neighborhood streets. This educational process will lead residents and motorists who frequently travel on the road to work together to pay more attention to their speeds in neighborhoods.



The City takes your traffic concerns **very seriously**, yet the ultimate responsibility for safe driving rests with **you**, the motorist in the City of Temecula



Seraphina Road – Street Narrowing, 25 MPH Signs and Legends, Radar Speed Signs & Fines \$380.



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<https://temeculaca.gov/992/Report-Traffic-Issues>



Home Owner Association
Assisted Residential
TRAFFIC CALMING
Program



City of Temecula
“Old Traditions
New Opportunities”

Patrick Thomas
Director of Public Works
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HOA - Traffic Calming Program

How can you make your neighborhood street safer?

AS A DRIVER... Drive slower - Realize that speeding through residential neighborhoods will make very little, if any, difference in the total time it will take to complete your entire trip. In addition, driving at slower speeds allows you more time to react to the unexpected, such as a child darting out from behind a parked car. Remember that the legal speed limit on all residential streets is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted. Make a conscious effort to drive 25 mph or slower on all residential streets. Remind family members and neighbors of the speed limit.

Avoid using local streets as short cuts - The more we use residential streets as short cuts, the more we disrupt the quality of life in neighborhoods. Neighborhood cut-through traffic increases noise and pollution in residential areas and results in a greater threat to the safety of children.

Observe all the rules of the road (traffic laws) - Do not take chances even on short local trips to the shopping mall, etc. Most accidents occur close to home.

Change your driving pattern on residential streets - Learn to adopt a different attitude! You should expect the unexpected on residential streets. It may not be your fault if you have an accident, but imagine the pain you would live with if you hit a child or elderly pedestrian.

Yield to pedestrians - Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections whether crosswalks are painted on the street or not. Remember that it is someone's child, mother, father, brother, or sister crossing the street!

At Intersections - Avoid parking on corners it at all possible, especially large oversize vehicles. It makes it difficult for drivers, pedestrians and children to see approaching vehicles. Remember to slow when approaching an intersection that does not have a Stop Sign, such as a "T" intersection. You must Yield to pedestrians and other vehicles.

Be aware that children are the primary pedestrians on neighborhood streets and that they are the most likely victims of careless drivers. Most young children — especially those under nine years of age — have great difficulty in making sound and safe judgments about traffic dangers.

AS A PARENT... Teach your children the rules of the road - Ensure that your children know and understand the rules of the road. *Studies have shown that smaller children have difficulty in making safe judgments about traffic dangers. Do not let your children play in the street. Warn them against darting into the road after pets or toys. Teach your children to stop, look both ways, and listen before crossing streets. Make sure your children know that even though cars are supposed to stop, they may not.*
Set a good example - Drive the speed limit and drive with courtesy. Do not double park. Do let children off on the correct side of the road when delivering or picking them up from school. **Don't rush** - Do not rush while driving. Organize yourself to leave a little earlier. In particular, do not rush getting children to and from school. Your urgency may transmit to them, causing them to disregard traffic safety and run headlong across the street.

AS A RESIDENT...Take the initiative - Report to <https://temeculaca.gov/992/Report-Traffic-Issues> problem areas along your street, such as: Damaged or missing traffic signs, pot-holes, Brush or trees that obscure driver's vision of signs, curbs, other vehicles, intersections, etc.

How Can HOA's help calm traffic?

Some traffic calming devices and methods:

1. Establish a Neighborhood Speed Watch Program Select or elect community volunteers to participate in a Neighborhood Traffic Safety Committee with regular meetings to discuss safety related observations and reports. Activate and engage neighborhood volunteers. They will have the most influence with other neighbors. Establish a Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. Appoint community volunteers to participate on a Traffic or Neighborhood Safety Committee.
 - Send letters to residents explaining the program and appealing to them for their support – provide educational materials about the safety related studies that show how pedestrian safety is improved with lower speeds.
 - Post signs on private property advertising the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program.
 - Call each resident to explain the program and ask for their support. Have volunteers go in pairs on Saturday mornings visiting neighborhood streets and parks discussing traffic concerns with residents who are outside. It's a great way to meet neighbors.
 - Safety Committee reviews complaints regarding speeding and sends notices to residents to inform them complaints and asked that they inform residents and visitors of the need to slow down. Have the safety committee review complaints regarding speeding and send letters to residents on those streets informing them of the complaints. Ask them to inform neighbors, visitors and vendors of the issue and to please drive slowly. In almost all cases of speeding complaints, it is the residents who live on the street or surrounding streets, who are a large part of the problem.
 - Set up safety patrol volunteers to stand on the sidewalk wearing yellow vests and holding slowdown signs.
 - Include regular updates on the speed watch program in the HOA newsletter on speeding issues. Request on mobile speed trailer.
1. Educate residents on how speeding effects pedestrian safety.
2. Post children at play cones on sidewalk when the children are playing outside on private property.

3. Park your car on the street during hours when speeding is a concern, as parked cars narrow street width. Wide open streets, can encourage faster speeds as it feels safer to drive fast. On narrowed streets, if a driver faces an oncoming vehicle, each driver must find a spot to slow down to maneuver, so they can pass.
4. Document the time of day speeding occurs. Report this information to the police department to request targeted enforcement during hours of concern.
5. Request a mobile speed trailer to be posted in your neighborhood to inform motorists of their speed.
- 6.

Does the City support traffic calming?

The City must follow State of California laws and guidelines regarding traffic control devices and cannot arbitrarily establish stop signs, nor traffic lights to slow traffic. It must follow established guidelines to warrant a new permanent traffic control device.

The City adopted the *Neighborhood Traffic Calming Toolbox Initiation and Approval Process* which includes the **NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM**.

This consists of activities as mentioned in this brochure that inform and seek to modify driver behavior. Techniques include printed information, meetings, and workshops between staff and residents, signing campaign, enforcement activities, school programs, parent outreach, etc...

The documents established so far assist in:

- The goals of traffic calming
- The principles of traffic calming
- A process for traffic calming
- A toolbox of traffic calming measures



**CITY OF TEMECULA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING
PROGRAM**



What steps are taken for traffic calming in my neighborhood?

In response to neighborhood traffic calming requests, the City will:

- Prioritize the request
- Initiate a study
- Identify / quantify the problem
- Help to develop a plan
- Help to Implement the plan