Traffic Calming does not work by itself, but requires neighborhood support to keep our streets safe.

- If you are a driver, respect the right of a pedestrian who is crossing at a marked or unmarked crossing.
- If you are a pedestrian, cross at intersections and use crosswalks on busy streets. As a parent, educate your children on the need for safety when crossing streets.
- Pay attention to your driving habits and do not exceed the speed limit.
- Contact the City’s Maintenance Department to begin exploring solutions to traffic concerns in your neighborhood: 206.275.7800
- Visit the City’s website for more details: www.mercergov.org/neighborhoodtraffic
Mercer Island’s Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is part of the City’s commitment to the safety and livability of Mercer Island neighborhoods. It is a collaborative effort of City staff and local residents to reduce the impacts of traffic on neighborhoods.

**Working together, we can:**

- encourage safe vehicle speeds,
- reduce collision frequency and severity,
- increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists,
- reduce cut-through traffic.
- create safe and attractive streets,
- promote alternative modes of transportation, and
- improve the quality of life in Mercer Island neighborhoods.

**Educating Drivers**

Traffic studies show that the majority of motorists using residential streets are the neighborhood residents themselves. That’s why neighborhood communication is a critical part of reducing speeds and creating safer roads. Talking with your neighbors and circulating flyers (provided by the City) can help get the word out about driving more carefully.

Sometimes motorists don’t realize how fast they are really going. The City of Mercer Island has a self-contained radar readerboard which electronically clocks the speed of an oncoming vehicle and posts the number on a display. Contact the City’s Maintenance Department (206.275.7800) to inquire about placing a radar readerboard in your neighborhood.

**Enforcement**

Enforcement is an important tool and can be employed along with all other attempts to solve neighborhood traffic problems. However, police resources are usually allocated in response to specific occurrences rather than on-going situations, and are limited by the many calls for service. If it is determined that there is a consistent problem, police can provide targeted enforcement to send a message to drivers in your neighborhood that speeding won’t be tolerated.

**Other Measures**

A neighborhood can also work with the City to trim vegetation to increase sight distance or implement signage or pavement markings. Signs can alert motorists to pedestrian crosswalks or reduced speeds. Pavement markings might include edgelines to narrow the roadway or speed limit legends.

More complex traffic calming might include traffic circles, which are islands built into an intersection, speed humps or chicanes (structures that create winding roads). Any recommended action will be based on sound engineering and planning principles, an analysis of access for public safety vehicles, community involvement, and the availability of funds.

Because these measures cost money and change neighborhood streets, the City has a process in place for the consideration and planning of these more extensive measures. In some cases, a petition of at least 60% of local residents is required before proceeding with adding structures to the streetscape.

For more details, please visit: [www.mercergov.org/neighborhoodtraffic](http://www.mercergov.org/neighborhoodtraffic) or call the City’s Maintenance Department at 206.275.7800.