

Residential Speed Complaints

Broken Arrow City Ordinance (23-53) regulates the speed limit shall be “Twenty-five m.p.h. on all streets and upon the streets adjacent to schools at times other than specified, unless otherwise posted”. Therefore, unless another speed limit is posted, the legal speed limit on all streets by ordinance is 25 m.p.h. Even if your neighborhood street has no posted speed sign, the legal speed limit is 25 m.p.h. Compliance with residential speed limits is one of the biggest complaints received by the Police Department. For this reason, we offer the following steps you can take to help reduce speeders in your neighborhood.

- The reality is the majority of motorists that are speeding past your home are your neighbors, the same people who live in the area. Due to complacency and familiarity, your neighbors will routinely drive too fast to get to and from their own homes. We recommend the first step you take is to approach your homeowners association to intervene to remind your neighbors of the importance of abiding by the speed limits in our residential areas. The Crime Prevention Specialist of the Broken Arrow Police Department can refer you to educational materials that can be distributed to your neighbors through the homeowners association. Call the Crime Prevention Specialist at 451-8200 extension 8213 for additional information. We can also refer you to resources to provide yard signs, bumper stickers and other materials (www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org) that can serve as supplemental reminders to people who drive near your home of the importance of abiding by our traffic laws. Peer pressure can be a successful way to encourage your neighbors to drive safely.
- The Broken Arrow Traffic Specialist Unit operates a “Traffic Hotline” for residents to call to report traffic problems, which may give you additional relief to your concerns. If you **call 451-8357** you can provide details as to what type of traffic problem you have, when the problems are most prevalent and we will address your concern through traffic enforcement. You can also notify us of traffic problems using the internet. Simply go to the Police Department website at www.bapolice.org and review the Traffic Division section. You can provide specific details of your problem using the “Traffic Feedback” button. Upon receipt of your complaint, an officer will be assigned to work enforcement in the area in an attempt to decrease the occurrences of violations through increased police presence. However, there are limitations to our affect on the number of violations occurring. Assignment of an officer to a neighborhood traffic enforcement request will be a temporary fix and must be conducted on a priority basis.
- Additional relief from traffic concerns can be addressed through the Traffic Calming Program that is implemented by the General Services Department of the City of Broken Arrow. Upon request, the city will conduct a traffic survey on the street in question to determine if it meets certain standards of minimum and maximum traffic counts and speed violations. If the majority of your neighbors who live adjacent to the street want traffic calming, then it may be eligible for the program. Traffic calming is a progressive program that uses a combination of additional speed limit signs, roadway markings, police enforcement, chatter strips, speed humps and traffic circles to reduce the average speed of vehicles on the street. Any residential street in the city can be considered for traffic calming, but certain criteria must be met before the program can be implemented. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the City General Services Department at 259-7000 or can be reviewed on the city website at www.brokenarrowok.gov.
- We want our tax dollars to be used to ensure we have wide, smooth roadways, yet we pay the price by watching fast moving cars drive by our homes. To combat these problems, the City incorporates progressive traffic calming measures in the design of our residential roadways during the planning stages. This is done by limiting the length of straight streets, incorporating bulbs, cul-de-sacs, curves, chicanes, islands, raised sidewalks, traffic circles, street narrowing and other traffic calming measures when designing city streets. Passive traffic calming measures can also be incorporated to slow traffic. For example, legally parked cars on the street have the same effect of street narrowing by forcing drivers to slow to safely negotiate around obstructions in the road.

A common fear expressed by parents is that “my child might be struck by a speeding car”. The misconception exists that if a car strikes a child, then the driver of the vehicle must be responsible for the crash. The reality is that most auto versus pedestrian collisions are caused by improper actions on the part of the pedestrian, especially small children who run into the street in front of traffic. It is a rare occasion that a vehicle driver will be found to have caused a crash involving a pedestrian. That’s of little significance till you are a grieving parent. We must remember that streets are designed for cars, not as playgrounds for children. As parents, we have the responsibility to ensure the safety of our children by keeping them away from the streets. This is the only way that we can ensure the safety of our children from passing traffic.