



Notes from High Woodlands Homeowner's Association Board Meeting
Traffic Safety Update
October 6, 2014
Robert Frost Elementary School

Notes by: Kathy Robertson, Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator (NTCC)

City Staff in attendance:

City Council: Toby Nixon

Kirkland Police: Cpl. Lapaki Zablan, Sgt. Nathan Rich, Lt. John Haslip, Capt. Bill Hamilton

Public Works: Kathy Brown (PW Director), Dave Godfrey, P.E. (Transportation Engineering Manager), Kathy Robertson (NTCC), Kari Page (Neighborhood Services)

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1. The Kirkland Police were present to help clarify the facts about the fatal pedestrian-vehicle collision at NE 144th St and 117th PI NE. Police staff noted that the collision was still being investigated. They could say the collision was not a result of speed or road design. The driver had come to a complete stop before turning. This collision was distinctly different from the traffic safety concerns (speeding, too much cut-through traffic, etc.) that the High Woodlands neighborhood has been working with City staff to resolve.
 2. The police also noted that they issued 15 citations in the past month up on 199th Ave NE and 5 collisions were reported since the start of January 2014. One collision was reported in 2013.
 3. Kathy Robertson summarized the progress the High Woodlands residents and the City had made to date working on traffic safety concerns since they were raised on June 5, 2014 after the June 4th collision. The City installed traffic counters on 117th PI NE and 199th Ave NE (two locations), attended two meetings to discuss options that could be implemented relatively quickly and produced a proposal for sign and road marking improvements that was generally accepted at the August 19th meeting. Service requests were filed to complete the signage work. Because the City had worked with a small group of neighbors to develop the proposal, the City was planning to send out letters to the entire neighborhood to inform them of the striping proposal and give them an opportunity to comment. These letters were to go out in early October. Pedestrian flags were in place at the crosswalk at 117th PI NE & NE 140th St. Sally Batson had filed an application to be a volunteer for the Speed Watch program.
 4. Kari Page explained the competitive grant funding opportunities for other improvements the neighborhood might want to pursue through the Neighborhood Safety Program.
 5. Council member Toby Nixon noted that City Council has a long list of priorities that have to be considered in developing the budget. If the neighborhood wanted to secure budget for



improvements in the 2015/2016 budget cycle, an effective approach is to come together as a group, work with staff and settle on a proposal, then present it to Council for support. The proposal could be general, such as traffic safety improvements, rather than specific, such as two speed humps and two chicanes.

6. Dave Godfrey discussed various traffic calming strategies. Speeding still occurs in the Norkirk area on streets with traffic circles, etc. and the City is still getting complaints about them. In other words, these devices have pluses and minuses, and these must be evaluated to make sure they will be effective, they have neighborhood acceptance and funding before they can be installed.
7. Dave Godfrey suggested that if the residents wanted to confirm cut through traffic, these could easily be done by having two people at 117th & NE 140th, near 124th Ave ne on NE 144th and at NE 160th and 119th AVE NE; record the license plate numbers of vehicles entering and leaving these points and the time, compile these into excel and sort/compare to see how many cars are actually going all the way through.
8. During brainstorming, a number of suggestions were made including: chicanes, speed bumps, traffic circles, traffic islands, additional stop signs, making the road accessible only to residents, radar speed check signs, more crossings with pedestrian flags, coordinating with Bothell for the section north of NE 153rd (Kirkland city limit), changing the signal timing at NE 160th (in Bothell), the residents pooling their volunteer efforts on Speed Watch and pedestrian flags to spread the burden, adding blinking lights around existing curve signs to get people's attention and adding flashing lights at intersections and crosswalks.
9. Next steps:
 - a. Kirkland Police will follow up on the Speed Watch volunteer application and work with the neighborhood to implement (see h.iii, below).
 - b. Kathy R to follow up and see that signs are installed per the August 19th proposal.
 - c. Kathy R to send out the letters re striping to the entire neighborhood.
 - d. Kathy R will work with traffic engineers and Street Division to look at installing radar speed check signs and locations. Target due date for plan = early to mid-November 2014.
 - e. Kathy R will present the City's process for selecting, evaluating and obtaining neighborhood acceptance, etc. of more extensive traffic calming devices and more stop signs (see h.i, below). Target date = end of October 2014.
 - f. Kathy R will work with the neighborhood to integrate participation in the City's pedestrian flag program into the overall traffic calming plan (see h.i and h.iii, below).



- g. The Kirkland Police and Public Works Transportation Division will contact Bothell and work to coordinate traffic calming and enforcement along 119th Ave NE.
- h. High Woodlands HOA/neighborhood to consider:
 - i. Forming a group to work with Kathy and other City staff on traffic calming devices for the neighborhood.
 - ii. Obtaining volunteers for a license survey to answer the cut-through traffic question.
 - iii. Creating a pool of volunteers for Speed Watch and pedestrian flag programs