



2015 Neighborhood Safety Program Project Priority and Scope

(Note: Please list only one project and location)

Contact Information

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General Project Information

Project Location: 117th Pl. N.E./119th NE from 140th north to 153rd _____

1. Please describe the safety problem or issue this project will address. (75–100 words) Please submit photo(s) with your Project Idea form.

Situation:

Unsafe pedestrian conditions for children and vulnerable adults along 117th Pl. N.E. which becomes 119th Ave N.E. in Kirkland, Wa. This street is located between two Elementary schools; Woodmoor Elementary and Robert Frost Elementary and Northshore Junior High. Children must walk from this neighborhood location to these schools. In addition there are 6 adult family homes, two day care centers and a preschool located along 117th Pl. NE/119th NE creating pedestrian populations at risk due to speeding cars.

Background:

Pertinent background information to this situation includes the following:

*For years the street, 117th Pl. NE which becomes 119th NE in Kirkland, WA has been identified by Kirkland residents as having a problem with speeding cars as well as drivers not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks.

*This speeding issue was verified by a traffic study that the City of Kirkland conducted on 119th Ave NE between NE 149th and 150th from July 18 through July 24, 2014. Out of the 9,896 vehicles counted that week, **30 percent** were driving 30mph or greater. Looking at southbound traffic alone, **36 percent** were driving 30mph or more. The numbers show that the overall 76 percent of drivers exceeded 25mph. Isolating southbound traffic, that number is **81 percent**.

*Per Chris Barringer, JD, Chief of Staff at the King County Sheriff's Office, there were six accidents in the 14500 block of 119th Ave NE. Per Melody Beath, Kirkland Public Records, there were 155 tickets issued between January 1, 2013 and Nov 13, 2014.

*Recent incidents occurring during the time that elementary school children were actively walking home from school are:

- >Sept 15, 2014 3:30pm. A man was fatality struck while in the crosswalk at 144th and 117th PI NE.
- >June 4, 2014 3:45pm. Car crash in a road rage incident at 117th PI.NE/142nd.

Assessment:

The lack of capital traffic safety improvements along 117th PI NE/119th Ave NE in Kirkland, WA has contributed to an unsafe walking environment for vulnerable populations. School children attending three different schools located off these streets must walk to school. The elderly population from 6 adult family homes along 117th PI NE/119th Ave NE, as well as joggers, mothers walking with strollers, skateboarders, bicyclists and pedestrians are at risk from speeding drivers and lack of driving attention at crosswalks.

The following is the City of Kirkland's own threshold for Phase 2 traffic intervention (http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Public_Works/Transportation_and_Traffic/NTCP_how.htm). Average daily traffic volumes of at least 200 but less than 5,000 vehicles per day where speed is an issue, 15% of the vehicles must be exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 5 mph as determined by speed studies, roadway characteristics such as hills, curves, and sight distance. The City of Kirkland's thresholds for traffic intervention and the City's own recent traffic studies on 117th PI NE/119th Ave NE in Kirkland show that this roadway meets the criteria for capital traffic safety improvements.

Recommendation:

Request 2 solar powered radar speed signs along 117th PI. N.E./119th Ave NE, Kirkland. Kathy Robertson, Public Works, has recommended that one sign is placed northbound 117th PI. N.E. about 141st and one sign is placed southbound on 119th Ave NE about 150th.

The solar powered sign estimated cost is \$3-\$4,000 per unit plus installation per Kathy Robertson. The vendor of preference is RU2 systems, Fast 250.

2.Please describe how this project will address this safety need with a viable and creative solution resulting in a lasting, positive community impact. (75–100 words)

Safety need addressed:

The purpose of the radar speed signs is to intentionally draw the motorists attention to speed reduction. The signs will be permanent. We want to encourage pedestrian traffic in this residential neighborhood community. We want to create a safe environment for school children walking to/from school. The at-risk senior population in adult family

