



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 587-3000  
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Dave Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Noel Schoneman, P.E., Neighborhood Traffic Control Program Coordinator  
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

**Date:** March 23, 2007

**Subject:** Response to Kim Vining, PTSA President, AG Bell Elementary School request for permanent radar signs on NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter responding to the request for permanent radar signs on NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street made by Kim Vining.

## BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Kim Vining, President of the PTSA for AG Bell Elementary School, wrote a letter to the City Council to request permanent radar signs on NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Vining cited the reasons for her request as motorists using NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street to bypass congestion on NE 116<sup>th</sup>, the majority of motorists exceeding the speed limit, and the school zone.

We have received other complaints about the speed and volume of traffic on this street. However, the local neighborhood did not support the addition of speed cushions on the 99<sup>th</sup> PI NE/100<sup>th</sup> Ave NE section of this cut-through route. A frequent comment on the 2004 ballots was, "we have enough speed cushions; we need one clear route into and out of our neighborhood". This street is also a designated Emergency Response Route.

The application of permanent radar signs on this street may be compatible with the policies adopted by the City Council in 2006. However, the City installed flashing school zone beacons on this street last year as part of a grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Other City actions that have on-going influence on traffic safety along this street are the two speed humps on NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street near AG Bell, police priority enforcement of speeds in the school zone by police enforcement, and the periodic deployed our radar trailer.

Prior to considering adding radar signs to this street, we recommend that the effectiveness of the flashing school zone beacons be evaluated (scheduled for later this year), that traffic data be updated, and that City staff work with Ms. Vining and the Juanita Neighborhood Association to further define the issue and consider alternative traffic control strategies as may be appropriate given the improvements to I-405 and the connections via 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE that are underway.



## A.G. Bell Elementary PTSA

11212 NE 112<sup>th</sup> • Kirkland Washington 98033 • 425-822-7450

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

To: City Council  
City Of Kirkland  
123 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Kirkland, WA 98033-6189

Re: Electronic Speed Limit Sign for A.G. Bell Elementary

Dear City Council,

We, the PTSA unit of A. G. Bell Elementary would like to bring to your attention a serious safety risk that is prevalent on the street that our school is located on.

A.G. Bell is located at 11212 NE 112<sup>th</sup> St. Kirkland, WA 98033. We have a student population of 386 children. NE 112<sup>th</sup> St. is a very busy street. It is often used, particularly in the morning, as a short cut to the I-405 freeway on ramp by vehicles not originating within our neighborhood. These vehicles are often in a hurry to beat the backup that congests the main arterial NE 116<sup>th</sup> St, which parallels NE 112<sup>th</sup>.

The speed limit on NE 112<sup>th</sup> St. is 25 MPH. The majority of vehicles exceed this speed limit.

When you factor in that this is also a school zone, and therefore many children are present, the possibility of a child being hit by a speeding vehicle is a likely possibility.

We would like to formally request that the city of Kirkland install two electric speed checking signs on NE 112<sup>th</sup> St. This type of sign measures the speed on an oncoming vehicle and displays that vehicle's speed for the driver to be aware of.

Many of the other elementary schools in Kirkland already have this type of sign and we believe the children at Bell deserve to have this same protection.

Please consider this request with all due seriousness and haste before one of our children becomes another statistic.

We await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Vining'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kim Vining, PTSA President  
A.G. Bell Elementary

April 4, 2007

**DRAFT**

Kim Vining, PTSA President AG Bell  
11212 NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kirkland, WA. 98033

**Subject: School Zone Traffic at AG Bell, NE 112th Street**

Dear Ms. Vinning:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about traffic speeds and safety for children walking along NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street near AG Bell Elementary School. Traffic safety is very important to us as well, especially in school zones.

The measures we have taken that provide on-going traffic control along NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street include:

- Emphasis police enforcement in the school zone.
- Last year we installed two flashing school zone beacons funded by a State grant. These beacons emphasize the 20 mph school zone and are set to the specific time periods when children are coming to and departing AG Bell. These signs also make enforcement much easier.
- Two speed humps are placed on NE 112<sup>th</sup> Street near the school.
- We deploy our portable radar trailer on the street periodically.

Last year we approved a policy for installing permanent radar signs. A primary portion of that policy is to consider other, more proven, traffic calming devices where possible, before considering radar signs. Kirkland has 6 radar signs and an evaluation done last year showed mixed results. Other jurisdictions have had mixed results as well. The two radar signs we have in school zones (Peter Kirk and Lakeview) are doing well, but we also want to evaluate their effectiveness as compared to the new school zone beacons we recently installed. That analysis will be done later this year.

We understand that NE 112th Street is sometimes used as a bypass to NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street. We believe that this use will diminish when the construction work underway on I-405, in particular the new interchange at 116th Street, and nearby surface streets is completed.

We have asked Noel Schoneman, the Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator for the north half of Kirkland, to work with you and the Juanita Neighborhood on this issue. Mr. Schoneman can be reached at (425) 587-3870 or by e-mail at [nschoneman@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:nschoneman@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

Sincerely,  
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: C.U Anderson, Principal, AG Bell Elementary School  
Scott Emry, Risk Manager, Lake Washington School District