

WOODLANDS/WEDDINGTON
Traffic Enforcement and Planning
July 13, 2009 **6:30 pm**
Pool House **Park Grove Place**

Attending: Terry Maher, President; Tracy Raulerson, Secretary; Shelley Scott, Treasurer; 6 residents, Lex Patterson, Dept of Transportation Manager; Officer Delaney

The discussion was centered on speeding vehicles through the neighborhood and options that would reduce the number of speeders.

Lex Patterson, Dept of Transportation Manager explained that studies are conducted around the City on street usage/speeds as well as investigating speeding complaints.

He explained that speeds are determined/validated based on counter studies. Counters are placed on/around a road that is not visible to drivers. The counters record:

- Vehicle classification (car, truck, motorcycle, etc)
- Speed of vehicle
- Number of vehicles that traveled over/by the counter

Based on the statistics from the counter they've learned that 85% of vehicles will travel at or below the "safe" speed for a road. Speed limits are validated/based on these studies as well as reviewing the surrounding areas/visibility of the road.

Stop signs are installed based on Stop warrants as detailed in the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). It's based on history of crashes in a span of time; # of vehicles approaching an intersection; delays it causes; and if there are visual obstacles that warrant a stop sign to travel safely through the intersection. Based on these criteria, it was deemed that the intersection at Alamance/Monticello did not meet these criteria and therefore a stop sign has not been installed.

He also pointed out that there are 323 center line City miles that do not include Hwy 29, Wilshire, etc that are patrolled by City of Concord Police.

And that City streets are for vehicles, not for children to be playing in them, that parents need to be responsible and ensure that their children understand that streets are dangerous and not to be played in.

Officer Delaney then showed a map of the various Districts within the City limits that the Officers are assigned to and patrol. She also relayed that the Police Dept only has 4 Traffic Enforcement Officers. One Traffic Enforcement Officer for each of the 4 Districts (Adam, Baker, Charlie and David).

The Traffic Enforcement Officer responsibility is to answer speeding complaints and enforce speed limits. The other Officers in a District will assist the Traffic Enforcement Officer but their main responsibility is to answer calls first (Domestic, larceny, etc) and then assist in Traffic Enforcement.

As a result, there are limited resources with which to enforce speed limits within neighborhoods and it was pointed out by Mr. Patterson that 90% of speeders in an area are from that area, i.e. our neighbors.

Options that are going to be vetted by the Traffic Enforcement Committee/Board Members are as follows:

- Continued visibility in the Newsletter of speeding
- Traffic safety event held in the neighborhood
- Hire an off duty City of Concord Police Officer to monitor the roads and issue traffic warnings and/or tickets

Things that can be done that do not require Committee/Board intervention.

People can note the license plate of a vehicle, if they don't know that, but actually can identify the person driving the vehicle and where they live, they can call the Police NON emergency # 704.920.5000 and report the infraction. Police will then respond, time permitting, to that address and speak with the Parties.

Officer Delaney pointed out that speeding tickets have the following costs:

- \$121 for Court costs
- \$30-50 depending on the speeding infraction
- Additional costs for lawyers and/or insurance rate increases

The Traffic Committee will meet and present a proposal to the Board around what options would be deemed the most effective to address the speeding through the neighborhood.