



# Speed Limit Request Quick Guide

There is no single solution for speeding on residential streets. Speeding vehicles, especially in neighborhoods can be frustrating and make residents feel unsafe. Please do your part and drive at or below the speed limit.

Please take special care near schools, parks and areas with decreased visibility.

Most vehicles travel at or below the posted speed limit. Unfortunately some drivers do not.  
**Occasional violators are unavoidable.**

## Best Practices to address speeding

Do your part. Don't speed. Spreading awareness about speeding can be an effective measure against it. Speeders are not usually "outsiders" but people from your neighborhood. Speak with your neighbors, host block parties and set a good example.

### Bike lanes

One of the most important factors in determining speed is the driver's perception of the road environment and of what speed is safe to drive. Bike lanes better define traffic lanes and calm traffic.

### Police Action

The Elgin Police Department will work with you to address speeding in your neighborhood.

Often police utilize the following:

#### Targeted enforcement

The Elgin police department can help. Report recurring, excessive speeding. Be sure to report where and *when* it occurs.

#### Speed Trailers

The city of Elgin offers speed trailers or speed signs that flash vehicle speeds as they pass. These can be an effective, short-term way to reduce speeds in your neighborhood.

To request bike lanes, increased enforcement or a speed trailer, submit a Traffic Issue Request Form online at [www.cityofelgin.org/traffic](http://www.cityofelgin.org/traffic) or in person at City Hall, 150 Dexter Court, Elgin, IL 60120.



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## Inadvisable approaches

### Lowering the speed limit

Artificially lowering speed limits has little impact on driver behavior. Drivers tend to drive at speeds suggested by roadway and traffic conditions, not based on what a sign displays.

### Adding stop signs

Stop signs are not to be used as speed control devices. Stop signs serve a critical function and their placement should not be arbitrary. Misplaced signs tend to lower compliance, which can be dangerous.

A stop sign is one of our most valuable and effective control devices when used at the right place and under the right conditions. Stop signs are used to determine who has the right-of-way. For more information please see the Stop Sign Request Quick Guide.

### Installing speed humps

Speed humps and tables can reduce speeds in the immediate vicinity of the hump and may discourage traffic. However they are not be appropriate in most areas. Speed humps divert traffic to other streets; increases vehicle noise; disrupts snow removal; increases emergency vehicle response times and; present a hazard for bicyclists and motorcycles.

Permanent installations like speed humps can be divisive, with many in support and many opposed. Currently no residential street in Elgin has speed humps, bumps or a raised speed tables.

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### “Children at Play” and other informational signage

The city of Elgin does not install informational signage as traffic control devices. Their use is discouraged because of the lack of proven effectiveness in changing driver behavior. Their installation may also provide a false sense of security to parents and children that may increase risk. For example some may view a “Children At Play” sign as evidence that the city of Elgin approves of streets as areas children can play unsupervised.