

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WILL A STOP SIGN HELP ADDRESS SPEEDING ISSUES?

The installation of STOP signs requires an Engineering Traffic Study as outlined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). STOP signs are meant to control right-of-way at intersections and are expressly prohibited from being used for speed control. An unwarranted STOP sign installation reduces speed only immediately adjacent to the sign. In most cases, drivers accelerate as soon as possible, to a speed faster than they drove before the STOP signs were installed. They do this apparently to make up for time lost at the STOP sign. STOP signs are not effective for speed control.

Drivers tend to ignore unwarranted traffic controls or obstacles that, in their view, are unnecessary. If they are frequently required to stop for STOP signs and rarely see any traffic on the opposing street, they may become impatient and tend to disregard STOP signs that have no obvious need. Unwarranted STOP signs do not reduce accidents and may actually increase the potential for accidents.

CAN I HAVE SPEED BUMPS/TABLES INSTALLED ON MY STREET TO SLOW DRIVER'S DOWN?

The Board of Fairfield Police Commissioners (LTA) has determined that the use of Speed Bumps or Speed Tables is not an approved Traffic Calming solution for the Town of Fairfield.

WHO DETERMINES WHAT THE SPEED LIMIT SHOULD BE ON A PARTICULAR STREET?

The Office of the State Traffic Administration determines the speed limit on all roads within the State of Connecticut. The minimum speed limit on most town roads is 25 mph (excluding private roads).

HOW CAN I PLACE A REQUEST FOR SPEED ENFORCEMENT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AND WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE?

Residents can place a request for speed enforcement by submitting a Traffic Enforcement request through the Fairfield Police Department Traffic Safety Unit: <https://fpdct.com/traffic/>.

Residents can also contact the Fairfield Police Traffic Division at 203-254-4850. The Traffic Unit will deploy Traffic Unit Officers and/or speed devices to a particular problem area to address speeding concerns. Please bear in mind that the Town of Fairfield has approximately 270 miles of roadway within its borders and we will do our best to conduct periodic enforcement on any particular problem area.

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ARE STOP SIGNS OR TRAFFIC SIGNS HELPFUL? I FIND THEM ON MY STREET AND OFTEN OBSERVE THEY ARE IGNORED BY DRIVERS. DO SIGNS HELP ADDRESS SPEEDING ISSUES?

The functions of traffic signs are to provide regulations, warnings and guidance information to road users. Words, Symbols and arrows are used to convey the messages. There are three main classifications of signs:

- Regulatory - which give notice of traffic laws and regulations
- Warning Signs - which give notice of a situation that might not be readily apparent
- Guide Signs - which show route designations, services and geographical information

The Town of Fairfield, by law, must comply with the standards, guidance and options of the National Manual on Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices. This is a legal document that can be found at <http://mutcd.fwha.dot.gov>

CAN I INSTALL A “SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGN?

The Children at Play sign does not exist in the MUTCD list of approved signs. This is not to say there aren't some existing signs in the community that have been erroneously allowed to remain until the end of the sign service life at which time they will be removed.

SUPPOSE I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE FINAL POLICE COMMISSION DETERMINATION, WHAT CAN I DO?

Having collected additional data supporting the proposed change, follow up requests may be submitted 6 months after the initial request was made.

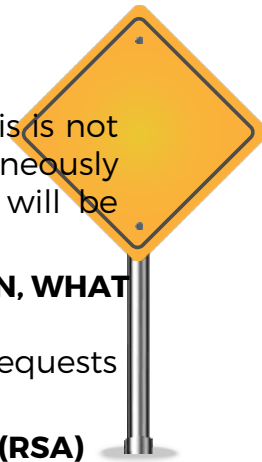
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SIGHT SURVEY AND ROAD SAFETY AUDIT (RSA) AND HOW CAN I REQUEST AN RSA ON MY STREET?

A Sight Survey is performed by the Police Commission (LTA) in collaboration with Police and Engineering Departments and at times Department of Public Works. Sight surveys are completed on a monthly basis for problem areas.

An RSA is performed by the Engineering Department for more complicated issues that may have potential for grant applications. RSA's do involve a larger number of officials and can take up to six (6) months to complete.

MY SIGHT NEEDS TRAFFIC CALMING FEATURES AND I HAVE FULL SUPPORT OF MY NEIGHBORS. WHAT CAN I DO?

Traffic Calming will be evaluated and determined by the LTA and Engineering Department. Traffic Calming features are sight specific and are not a one size fits all. Many options are considered during evaluations such as cost, right of way, traffic volumes, functional classifications and surrounding streets.



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MY PROPERTY ABUTS THE STATE ROADWAY AND RECOMMEND TRAFFIC CALMING ON THE STATE ROAD. SHOULD I CONTACT THE STATE DIRECTLY?

The public should not contact the state directly and should send their request to the Engineering Department. The Engineering Department will then review the issue and submit a request for state review.

I AM A BICYCLIST BUT DUE TO ON STREET PARKING I FIND IT CHALLENGING TO RIDE ON THE ROADWAY. WHY ARE RESIDENTS ALLOWED TO PARK ON THE STREET?

This is where the Neighborhood Petition Form comes in place. A resident can petition for No Parking signs to be posted, which must be approved by the LTA.

Police can only enforce No Parking Zones (ie Handicapped Parking, Parking within 25 feet of on Intersection/Crosswalk, blocking a Fire Hydrant etc) on public streets.

I SEE OVERGROWN TREES COVERING/OBSCURING TRAFFIC SIGNS. WHO CAN I REPORT THESE MAINTENANCE ISSUES TO?

Conditions such as these (overgrown tree branches, hidden/faded traffic signs or markings can be reported directly to the Department of Public Works (DPW) at 203-256-3177 or online at: <https://www.fairfieldct.org/qalert/>