

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

that need additional encouragement. Drivers seeing these radar trailers on a roadway never know if an officer is also in proximity at that time!

## HOW DOES THE CITY DETERMINE WHERE A SPEEDING PROBLEM EXISTS?

Each month, the Traffic Studies Section receives 75 to over 100 calls regarding traffic concerns. The most common is excessive vehicular speed in residential neighborhoods. In response to these concerns, staff initiates an engineering study to determine the extent of the reported problem and if necessary, what corrective measures may be appropriate. Some traffic engineering issues that are considered are:

- **Is the roadway posted adequately and appropriately with speed limit signs?**
- **Are the existing signs clearly visible?**
- **Are there any special roadway geometrics?**
- **What is the volume of vehicles that use this roadway each day?**
- **How fast are the vehicles actually traveling?**
- **Does the reported crash history show a pattern of excessive speed as a contributing factor?**

Once all this data is gathered and analyzed, staff can get a clear picture of the actual conditions. If the study indicates that a problem exists, corrective action is taken. One of the actions might be to place the radar trailers on the street.

## CAN THE TRAILERS BE USED ON ANY STREET?

Finding an appropriate location to physically set up the trailer is not always easy. In order to be effective the trailers must be set up in a location that allows the radar unit to have a clear path to approaching vehicles. Often times the trailer can not be set in the best place to deter

speeders due to limited parkway space, existing trees, shrubs, utility poles, driveways, intersecting streets, sprinkler systems, manicured lawns, etc...

Since the "radar trailers" are needed throughout the City, a list of candidate locations must be maintained. The list of locations is compiled one month in advance and can be found on our website.

## HOW DOES THE CITY KNOW IF THE TRAILERS ACTUALLY SLOW VEHICLES DOWN?

We can determine the effectiveness of the trailers at each of location in a number of different ways:

1. Each trailer is able to store vehicular volume and speed data. A report can be printed that will show the total number of vehicles that approached the trailer and how fast they were traveling when they passed by.
2. Transportation Engineering staff and the Orlando Police Department often visit the installed trailers to personally monitor the traffic conditions.
3. Citizens living in the vicinity of the installed trailers often call to report a noticeable reduction in speeders.

Although the radar trailers are not a complete solution in themselves, the effectiveness of education, enforcement and engineering have proven to be a winning combination.

*For additional information please contact:*

## City of Orlando

Transportation Department  
Transportation Engineering Division  
Post Office Box 4990  
Orlando, Florida 32802-4990

Telephone: 407-246-2281  
FAX: 407-246-2892

## City of Orlando

# TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

*Transportation Department  
Transportation Engineering Division*



Tel: 407-246-2281  
FAX: 407-246-2892

## Introduction

Speeding on Orlando's streets is a serious concern for all of us. The City's Transportation Engineering Division frequently receives requests from individuals for deterrents such as lowering the posted speed limit.

Unfortunately, engineering studies have consistently demonstrated that there are no significant changes in vehicular speeds following the posting of revised speed limits.

### SO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CONTROL SPEEDERS?

Police enforcement plays an important role in effecting vehicular speeds. Studies show that

concentrated police enforcement efforts directed at speed and other traffic law violations do have positive benefits, however, they tend to be short term unless enforcement returns periodically.

Additionally, police enforcement efforts

address only a percentage of speeders with each contact. Since it is impractical to have police officers continually

present, traffic engineers try to encourage voluntary compliance by setting reasonable speed limits and through proper dissemination of information. Various educational "tools" can be employed to impact a



larger number of drivers and result in behavioral changes. When education is coupled with police enforcement, a greater impact can be achieved and results in a longer lasting effect.

### MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE...

In 1994 Orlando was recipient of a Florida Department of Transportation Safety Grant which was used to purchase one of the most effective tools available today, the radar driven digital display board (also known as the "radar trailer"). This device has proven to be an excellent educational tool to augment existing police enforcement methods.

The board, mounted on a portable trailer, is equipped with a special solar powered, radar driven, numerical display which shows each approaching driver his or her current traveling speed.

Above this display is affixed a large speed limit sign showing the legal posted speed limit for the roadway. By showing the driver his or her actual driving speed in comparison with the posted speed limit, voluntary compliance with the law is encouraged.



**Speed display trailer in action on a residential street**

With the hustle and bustle of daily life, drivers often have more on their minds than their driving speed. The radar trailer quickly redirects the driver's attention to the task of driving, hopefully eliciting a voluntary correction in speed if necessary.

### DOES THE DISPLAY ALWAYS GET DRIVERS TO SLOW DOWN?

In general, most drivers are prudent and will voluntarily comply with a reasonable speed limit. Unfortunately, not all drivers are prudent and those are the ones that will break the law regardless of roadway and traffic conditions. Even though Florida Statue 318.18 sets the fine for exceeding the posted speed limit at \$66.50 plus \$4.25 for each mile over the limit, some drivers still take their chances. (NOTE: Fines are doubled in a school zone and in most construction zones!)

Much to the dismay of these drivers, the radar trailers are equipped with very accurate and legally certified radar units. The Orlando Police Department often sends officers to the locations where the radar trailers are placed to help "remind" those drivers (CONTINUED)

FOR MORE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING INFORMATION

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBPAGE AT:

[http://www.cityoforlando.net/public\\_works/traffic](http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/traffic)