

COPING WITH TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Traffic and vehicle related complaints have increased steadily over the past several years and are likely to continue. The recent population growth within Seattle proper has been modest; however, the increase in the number of vehicles owned has been dramatic. In neighborhoods with limited off street parking, residents are often forced to park further and further away. Chronically clogged arterial streets often push drivers in search of "short cuts" through neighborhood side streets resulting in safety concerns for residents.

Most would agree that there are no fast, easy solutions for most traffic problems. Sometimes what seems to a good plan to reduce congestion on one street, simply diverts the problem to another, similar street. The City, therefore, must look at each proposal holistically and make a determination as to what is best for all parties involved. The following is a list of City department and division that have responsibility for regulating and enforcing traffic plus a brief explanation of their areas of responsibility. Some of the programs outlines below require input, cooperation and time commitments from neighbors working toward a common goal.

SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION

Arterial and Commercial Zone Traffic Concerns 684-5106

This office investigates traffic issues relating to accidents, speeding, or lack of visibility on arterial or commercially zoned streets.

Channelization 684-5116

For concerns about ways in which cars are channeled into lanes.

Crosswalk Repainting 684-5116

For existing crosswalks that need to be repainted.

Parking Issues 684-7623

Requests to change parking controls along public streets.

Residential Parking Zones (RPZs)

New Requests, 684-5092 Existing RPZs, 684-5086

Residential parking spots being taken up by nearby businesses or institutions may qualify a neighborhood for RPZ status. This program restricts street parking to residents whose cars are identified with a purchased sticker. Call the above listed number for a brochure that outlines this process in detail.

Residential Street Traffic Concerns 684-7577

If you live on a non-arterial street in a residential area and have a chronic traffic problem you can call to find out if traffic circles, signs, speedwatch or similar measures might help.

Seattle Police Department
Community Service Officers/Community Crime Prevention

01/01

Speed Watch 684-0815

This program allows residents who believe drivers are speeding through their neighborhood streets to record, with a radar gun, their actual speeds. A reminder notice is then sent to owners of cars in violation. Speedwatch can also provide part of the documentation needed to request changes in traffic patterns.

Traffic Circles 684-0817

Traffic circles are raised areas within intersections designed to slow traffic. Many more requests are made for traffic circles than can be filled. Priority is granted on the basis of accident history, traffic speed and volume. To qualify, neighbors must agree to the circle.

Traffic Sign Repair or Replacement 684-1206

Call to report damaged or destroyed stop signs, pedestrian or warning signs, or to investigate traffic problems that may be solved with additional signage.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DESIGN

Parking on Private Property 684-7899

Report suspected parking violations on private property, including long term storage of inoperable vehicles in yards.

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Parking Violations on City Streets 625-5011

Use this number to report illegally parked cars including blocked driveways or crosswalks, cars parked in front of fire hydrants, hazards, in load zones, or in similar no parking areas.

Abandoned Vehicles 684-8763

Call this 24hr. message line to report vehicles parked in the same place longer than 72 hours. Parking Enforcement Officers who must verify the violation in person, handle complaints on a first come, first serve basis.

Moving Violations on Neighborhood Streets 684-8757

Call to report chronic moving violations you have observed, such as speeding, failure to observe stop or yield and similar offences. Include location, time of day and nature of the violations. The information will be recorded and officers will follow up.