

## Neighborhood traffic FAQs

### 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements Project

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Date updated: 8/4/15

#### **What is SDOT doing to address cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets?**

SDOT takes concerns about the safety of people walking, biking and driving in and around the project area very seriously. As a result of neighborhood reports and field observations, SDOT has worked to optimize traffic flow on the detour route and implemented tools to discourage drivers from cutting through or speeding on neighborhood streets. Provided below is a comprehensive list of these measures.

#### ***Traffic signal changes***

One of the best ways SDOT can limit the temptation for drivers to use neighborhood streets is to help optimize the detour route. In the second half of June, our signal technicians adjusted several traffic signals in the area based on the traffic patterns that developed after the first two weeks of construction. These changes have helped manage traffic back-ups on Jackson, Martin Luther King Jr Way and other arterials. However, congestion does still occur during peak hours, as it did before construction began.

#### ***“Local Access Only” signs***

Since mid-June, we installed more than 10 “Local Access Only” signs on local streets, including 21st, 22nd 25th, 26th, and 27th avenues, to discourage cut-through traffic.

#### ***Increased patrols and speeding enforcement***

As a result of reports from neighbors about speeding on neighborhood streets, we’ve asked the Police Department’s East Precinct to provide ongoing increased patrols in these key areas:

- 21st Avenue between Yesler and Fir
- 25th Avenue between Washington and Spruce
- 22nd Avenue between Yesler and Fir
- 20th Avenue between Spruce and Alder
- 26th Avenue between Washington and Spruce
- Promenade 23 parking lots

#### ***Pedestrian crossing flags***

In early June, we installed pedestrian crossing flags and buckets at 25th Avenue and S Jackson Street and E Alder Street and Martin Luther King Jr Way.

#### ***In-street pedestrian signs***

In early July, crews placed the in-street pedestrian warning sign at the Martin Luther King Jr Way and Alder Street crosswalk.

### ***Yard signs***

Since late June, we have delivered the below yard signs to various community contacts and neighbors for installation in front yards and within city right of way to provide another reminder to drivers to slow down. To request a yard sign, please contact our outreach team by calling our hotline at 206-727-8857 or sending an email request to [23rdAveCorridor@seattle.gov](mailto:23rdAveCorridor@seattle.gov).



### ***Speed trailers***

On July 21, we placed speed trailers at the first temporary residential locations in the neighborhood. The speed trailers serve as a speeding deterrent by educating drivers about their speeds. We determined the following placement locations by using reports from neighbors and field observations:

- 21st Avenue between E Fir and E Spruce streets
- 22nd Avenue between E Fir and E Spruce streets
- 26th Avenue between E Yesler Way and E Fir Street
- 25th Avenue between E Yesler and E First Street

Some of the speed trailers we use also have the capability to collect traffic counts and speed data; this data can be used to compare to baseline information collected before construction. Due to a limited supply of speed trailers citywide, the speed trailers are usually placed at one location for a short time period.

### ***20 MPH Zone pilot program***

Though separate from the 23rd Avenue Corridor Improvements Project, in 2015 and 2016, SDOT will implement several projects in the Central Area as part of a pilot program that uses a new approach to neighborhood traffic calming: 20 MPH (miles per hour) Zones. The goal of the 20 MPH Zone program is to improve safety and livability in Seattle neighborhoods by decreasing vehicle speeds. The 20 MPH Zone pilot program will start with a first phase, where we will install 20 MPH signs and 20 MPH markings on the street. If these changes don't result in appropriate speeds, a second phase could be pursued that could include installing speed humps and/or other traffic calming devices. For more information on this program, including a map of the projects planned in the Central Area, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/20MPHzones.htm>.