

Seabrook Police Department



7 Liberty Lane, P.O. Box 456

Seabrook, NH 03874

Phone: (603) 474-5200

Fax: (603) 474-7242

Brett J. Walker

Chief of Police

Kevin M. Gelineau

Deputy Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Manager

FROM: Chief of Police

DATE: August 21, 2020

RE: Traffic information related to Washington Street & safety recommendations

I was recently informed that a resident had voiced concerns about vehicles speeding on Washington Street and proposed the implementation of stop signs as was done in the beach area in 2019. After receiving this information we deployed our mobile radar trailers on Washington Street with one capturing northbound traffic and the other capturing southbound traffic. The trailers were placed approximately halfway between Walton Road and Route 286. The radar trailers have capabilities beyond telling motorists their speed and are also able to provide useful data. Washington Street is a posted 30 mph zone. The following information was gathered by the radar trailers between August 14th and August 17th:

Trailer capturing SOUTHBOUND traffic:

Total vehicles: 13,777

vehicles at/under speed limit: 9,851 (71.50%)

vehicles over speed limit: 3,926 (28.50%)

vehicles 30+ mph: 3,857 (27.99%)

vehicles 40+ mph: 66 (0.47%)

vehicles 50+ mph: 3 (0.02%)

28.49% of vehicles exceeded the posted speed limit.

Trailer capturing NORTHBOUND traffic:

Total vehicles: 11,322

vehicles at/under speed limit: 7,831 (69.17%)

vehicles over speed limit: 3,491 (30.83%)

vehicles 30+ mph: 3,432 (30.31%)

vehicles 40+ mph: 56 (0.49%)

vehicles 50+ mph: 3 (0.02%)

30.83% of vehicles exceeded the posted speed limit.

A longer term deployment of the trailers can be done for a larger data set but based upon the information gathered I do not believe a solution similar to the beach area is appropriate. Atlantic Avenue, Portsmouth Avenue, and Ocean Drive are different from Washington Street when it comes to vehicular traffic. I believe that additional speed enforcement at key times would be the most effective means of addressing this issue.

Additionally, in January I requested the purchase of two (2) speed limit/radar signs from the "unrestricted funds" after discussion at a Board of Selectmen meeting. These signs are more permanently placed in key areas and provide a constant reminder of speed to motorists. The two signs I requested had a price of \$9,997.00 and were intended to be placed on Railroad Avenue and Ocean Boulevard with the hope of adding additional signs in the future and Washington Street being in the next phase.

The police department will pursue additional measures to reduce speed and increase safety along Washington Street but the primary means of accomplishing this will continue to be through speed enforcement by patrol officers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Walker", with a small number "266" written to the right of the signature.

Brett J. Walker, Chief of Police

