

Fact Sheet

Speeding in Neighborhoods



West Chester Township takes neighborhood speeding seriously and works closely with our law enforcement, public works, and the fire department staff to evaluate concerns. Our goal is to support public safety while following Ohio laws and engineering best practices to ensure consistent, effective traffic safety solutions.

Stop Signs

Stop signs are not speed control tools.

- Stop signs are not approved for speed control under Ohio law and Federal guidance. According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD), “stop signs shall not be used for speed control.” The Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (which aligns with the federal MUTCD) prohibits the use of stop signs solely to slow drivers down.
- Stop signs are reserved for assigning right-of-way based on traffic volumes, sight lines, crash data, and other safety factors.
- For further details, visit <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>. Sections 2B.06 & 2B.07 in the 11th edition of the MUTCD are most relevant to neighborhood stop signs.

The County Engineer must authorize stop sign installation. In Ohio, townships must obtain authorization from the county engineer to install stop signs.

Misuse of stop signs can reduce their effectiveness and create new safety risks.

When used as a speed control measure rather than for right-of-way, stop signs can lead to driver noncompliance, aggressive acceleration and braking, increased speeding between intersections, and diminished respect for traffic control devices.

Speed Humps / Bumps

The Township does not install speed humps on public streets due to the following concerns:

- **Emergency response delays:** Speed humps slow down police, fire, and EMS

- **Damage to equipment:** Snow plows are often damaged by speed humps, and speed humps are often damaged during winter snow removal operations. In addition, they cause costly wear and tear to expensive fire and EMS vehicles.
- **Past tests were ineffective:** The Police Department has experimented with temporary speed humps in the past and found they did not reduce speeding behavior.

Engineering best practices favor targeted enforcement and environmental design (e.g., adding visual cues), not speed humps.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks improve safety by giving pedestrians a safe space to walk and reducing the need for children and others to walk in the street.

Sidewalks in existing neighborhoods require a petition process:

- A majority (over 50%) of affected property owners must sign a petition.
- The Township holds a public hearing, and if approved by the Board of Trustees, costs are shared by homeowners through a special property tax assessment.
- Full details and sample petition forms are available on the Township's website or by calling 513-777-5900.

Final Message for Residents

The Police Department regularly evaluates and responds to speeding complaints with tools like targeted enforcement, radar trailers, and speed studies.

Residents can report persistent speeding concerns directly to the Police Department or via the Township's service request system.

We understand your concerns and are here to work with you. While some tools like speed humps or unwarranted stop signs aren't feasible or legal, there are multiple strategies we can pursue together to improve safety and calm traffic in your neighborhood.