

Safe Speeds Bellevue:

Implementing Bellevue's Speed Management Plan

ITE Western District Annual Meeting

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City of Bellevue

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Why Manage Drivers to a Safe Speed?



Safe Speeds are Key to Vision Zero

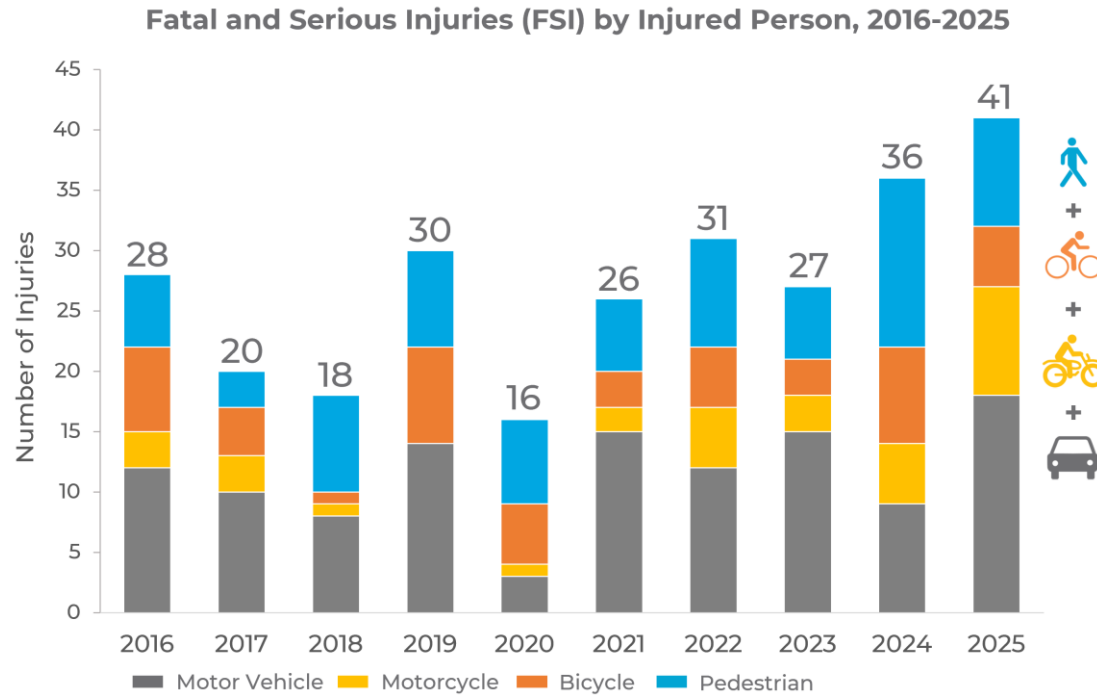


Council adopted vision: Eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030.

Key Safe Speeds strategies:

- 1. Set appropriate speed limits**
2. Design streets for safety over speed
3. Leverage technology to manage speeds

Bellevue's FSI Trends



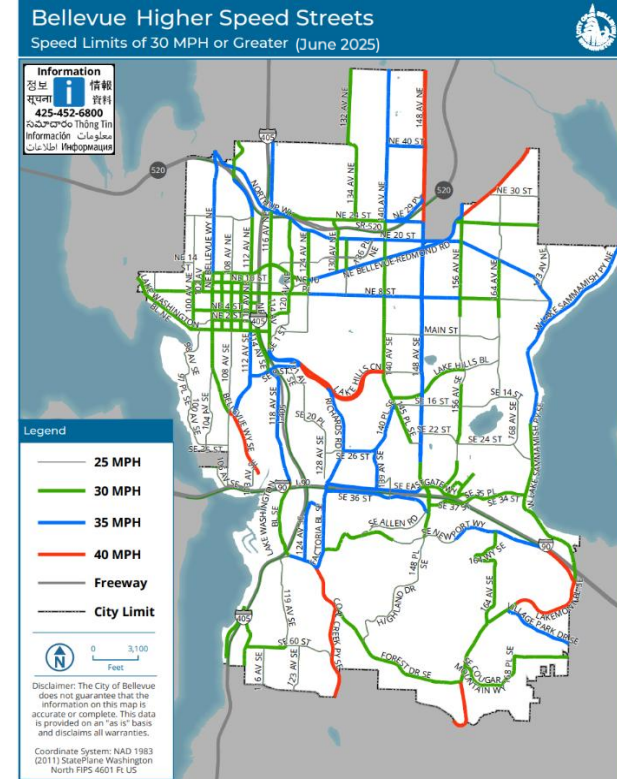
Source: WSDOT Collision Data (2016-2025)



Safe Speeds Bellevue

Initial Goal: Evaluate all 30+ mph streets and implement appropriate speed limits

- Determine Safe Speeds
- Test Lower Speed Limits
- Public Outreach
- Council Approval
- Implementation
- Evaluation/Countermeasures



How to Determine Safe Speeds?

Drivers/Design
Decide



Context
Decides

- 85th Percentile Approach + Design Speed
- NCHRP 966 Speed Limit Setting Tool (2021)
- NACTO City Limits
- WSDOT Injury Minimization / Target Speed



How to Determine Safe Speeds?



- **Conflict point density** of intersections, driveways, and crossings
- **Separation** for people walking and biking
- **Activity** based on land use, density, transit, etc.



How to Determine Safe Speeds?

		<i>HIGH</i>	<i>MODERATE</i>	<i>LOW</i>
CONFLICTS	Separation (Ped)	1) No sidewalks	1) One sidewalk, with buffer	Two sidewalks, 1 buffer
		2) One sidewalk, no buffer	2) Two sidewalks, no buffer	
	Separation (Bike)	No bike lanes	Striped bike lanes	Buffered bike lanes or better
	Conflict Density	8.0+ CPs per 1/4 mile	4.0-7.9 CPs per 1/4 mile	<4.0 CPs per 1/4 mile
ACTIVITY LEVEL		Curbside use, LU density, transit, ped activity, priority bike routes		Low density land use and minimal ped/bike/transit



How to Determine Safe Speeds?

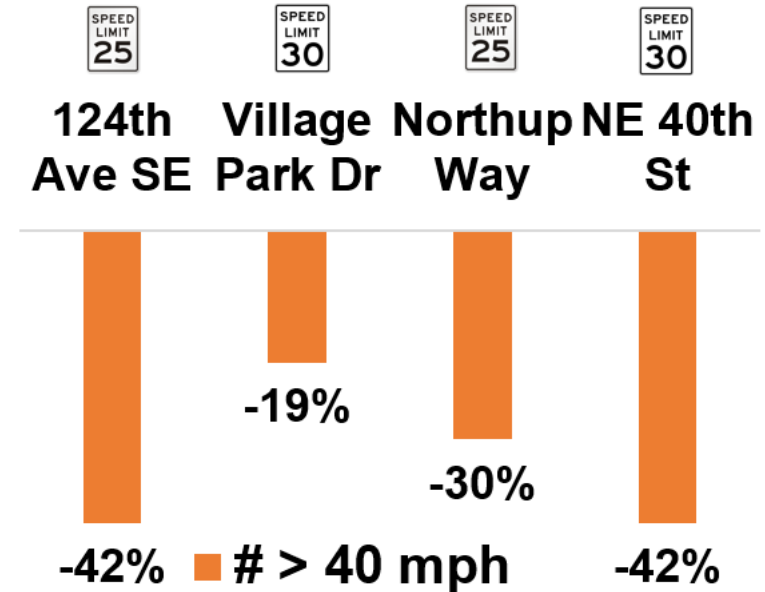
		CONFLICTS		
		 		
		High	Moderate	Low
ACTIVITY LEVEL 	High	16%  to  *	8% 	1%  to  *
	Moderate	6% 	36%  to  *	8% 
	Low	8% 	11% 	5% 



Test Lower Speed Limits

- Reduced four 35 mph streets to 25 or 30 mph
- People driving responded to new speed limits: high-end speeding reduced
- Traffic volume fluctuated -8% to +6%

Change in High-end Speeding



Public Outreach

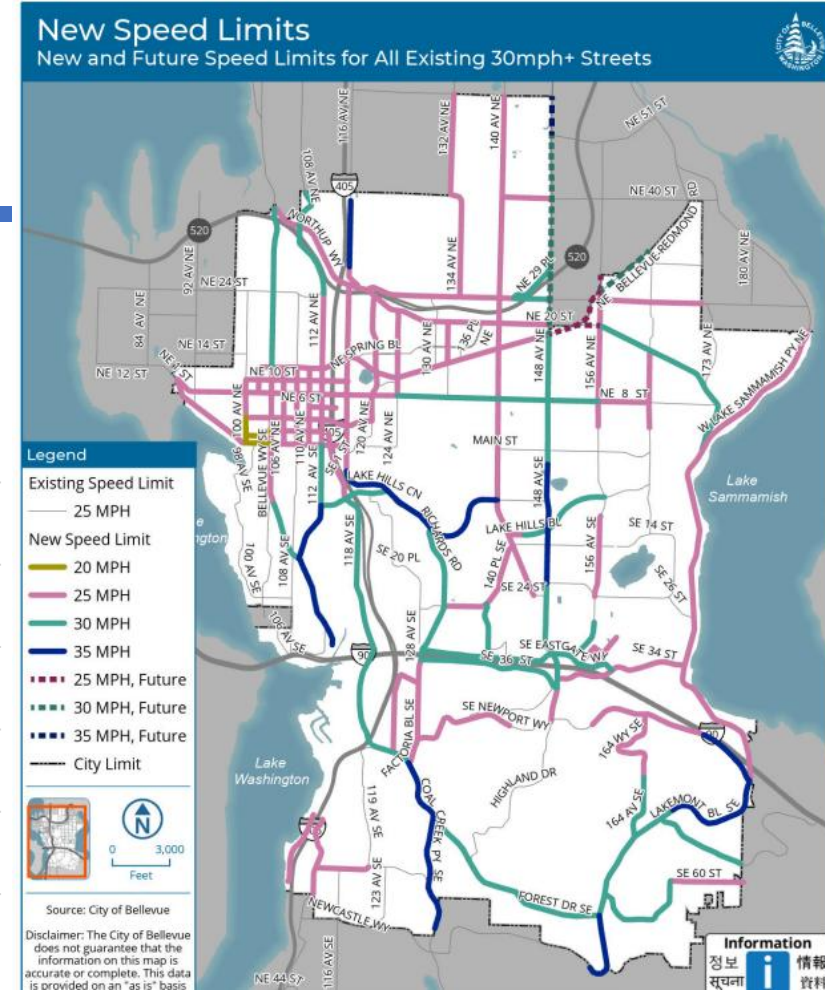
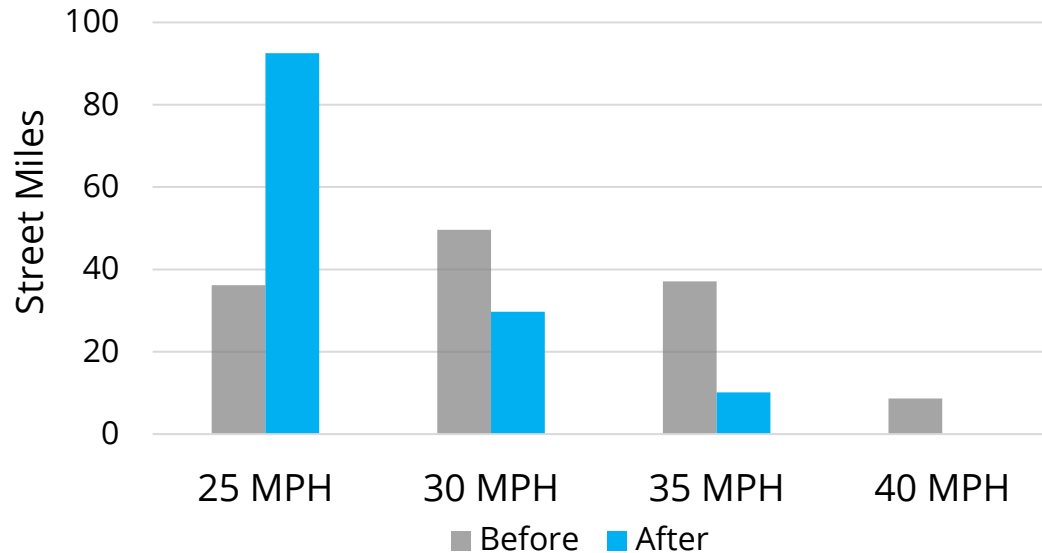
- + 75% think speed of cars affects the safety of all road users
- + Majority support lower speed limits when presented with safety benefit
- Desire for design changes, enforcement
- Concern about congestion



Council Approval

- Speed limits adopted June 23rd

Arterial Speed Limits Before and After



Implementation



- Planned for 2027-2028
- Add, replace or remove ~900 signs
- Up to three phases
- Increase sign density so drivers pass sign every 30 secs
- Continue public outreach

Evaluation + More Countermeasures

Initial Phase

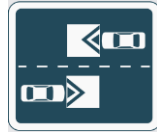
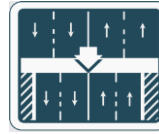


- Safer speed limits
- More speed limit signs
- Adjust signal timing

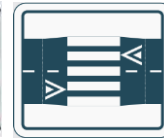
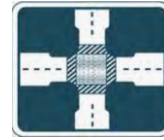
Potential Additional Tools



Technology



Traffic Calming



Crossings

Prioritize enforcement and countermeasures based on speed and crash data

A Citywide Approach to Safe Speeds

Strategy	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Arterial Speed Limits		Safe Speed Study	Approved by council	Post new limits	Finish Posting + Treatments
Local Speed Limits	Approved by council	Design	Post this summer		
Speed Safety Cameras		Council Approves Expansion	Install 7 Locations	Install	Install



Thank You!

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