

From: lands@sopris.net
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 9:16 AM
To: City Council
CC: Gary McSpadden; Donnell Tanksley; Jason Snow; Pat Freeman
Subject: FW: Mitchell Ave

Importance: High

Hello City Council members,

I attended a city council meeting on April 10th and presented my concerns about the speeding issue on Mitchell Ave. I included a list of the various streets in Blaine and the number of stop signs and/or roundabouts on each. As you can see from this email chain, we did receive correspondence in April and May. The last email I received on May 18th stated, "That is the next location our counter will go, and we are looking at procuring an additional counter for more flexibility in the street department." Not having heard anything since then, I reached out on August 30th with no response, I resent the email with high importance on September 1st, still with no response. This is a safety concern, and the lack of response is not only disappointing but frightening as well!

Is there another avenue I need to pursue or address my concerns to?

Frustrated!!!
Liesa Smith

From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 9:49 AM
To: 'Gary McSpadden' <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>
Cc: 'Donnell Tanksley' <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; 'Jason Snow' <JSnow@cityofblaine.com>; 'Pat Freeman' <PFreeman@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave
Importance: High

From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 10:25 AM
To: 'Gary McSpadden' <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>
Cc: 'Donnell Tanksley' <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; 'Jason Snow' <JSnow@cityofblaine.com>; 'Pat Freeman' <PFreeman@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Hi Gary,

It's been over three months and we haven't seen or heard anything regarding the speed counter at Mitchell and Adelia. In the meantime, the speeding continues to be an issue and seems to have gotten worse. We're actually considering buying a speed gun and share our findings with you so that maybe this issue will not continue to fall on deaf ears. I'm concerned that it's going to take an accident or a pedestrian/child/animal getting hit for this issue to be seriously addressed.

Frustrated,
Liesa

From: Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 1:54 PM

To: lands@sopris.net

Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; Jason Snow <JSnow@cityofblaine.com>; Pat Freeman <PFreeman@cityofblaine.com>

Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Hello Leisa,

That is the next location our counter will go, and we are looking at procuring an additional counter for more flexibility in the street department.

Have a good afternoon, Gary.

Gary Mc Spadden

Acting Public Works Director

Bus: (360)332-8820 / Cell:(360)543-3243 | 1200 Yew Avenue, Blaine WA 98239

Email:gmcspadden@cityofblaine.com



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From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:18 PM

To: Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>

Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>

Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Afternoon Gary,

Just following up on the counters installed on Mitchell. As I mentioned previously, the single tube counting vehicles was installed on the north bound side at Mitchell and Adelia but was there less than 72 hours. It then moved across the street to the south bound side and was there for a couple + weeks before the second tube to count speed was installed and it stayed there for over 2 weeks. The speed counter has never been installed at Adelia and Mitchell.

My whole point at the city council meeting was the high rate of speed people drive coming off of Peace Portal onto Mitchell and use it like a racetrack. At the meeting I listed the number of roundabouts and stop signs on different streets throughout town, some had one every block but there's not one on Mitchell.

I understand that you're limited in the number of counters that you have but could we please, please, get one back at Mitchell and Adelia which is where I requested a stop sign? If any of you would like to come sit at our house some morning, have a cup of coffee, and watch the drivers, you're more than welcome!

Thank you,
Liesa Smith

From: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:09 PM
To: Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>; lands@sopris.net; Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Thanks everyone for the input and information. This is a slow process but hopefully we will be able to get some great data.

Donnell "Tank" Tanksley
Chief of Police
322 H Street
Blaine, WA
360-332-6769

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Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/blainewapd/status/1379977424134283265?s=21>

From: Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 1:55 PM
To: lands@sopris.net; Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Afternoon Liesa,

My name is Gary McSpadden and I am the Acting Public Works Director here in Public Works. We had a unit placed at Adelia that was a one tube unit which only counts cars. We placed the 2-tube unit currently which means it counts cars and gives you an estimated speed. We have a limited number of these units so we will be moving the current unit to multiple locations on Mitchell St.. The unit we have has tubes to cover one lane so we will be addressing that when we move the unit.

Hope this information helps, Gary

Gary Mc Spadden

Acting Public Works Director
Bus: (360)332-8820 / Cell:(360)543-3243 | 1200 Yew Avenue, Blaine WA 98239
Email:gmcspadden@cityofblaine.com



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From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:31 AM

To: Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Thanks so much for your reply. I look forward to hearing from someone at Public Works.
Thanks again and enjoy your day!
Liesa

From: Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:48 AM
To: 'lands@sopris.net' <lands@sopris.net>
Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; Gary McSpadden <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Hello Liesa,

I will try to explain, but my knowledge is limited. Generally, a single cord counts vehicles, and two cords count vehicles and calculate speed. If a cord isn't receiving much data after a given time, it is sometimes moved to a different location.

I have cc'd this email to the public works director. Either he or someone else at Public Works will definitely be able to explain how a traffic study works better than I can. Public Works also moves the cords, so they would know why they were placed where they are.

I am sorry I don't have much information to give. Unfortunately, traffic studies are a little outside of my expertise. Feel free to contact me at this email at any time. I will gladly help if I can.

Thank you for taking the time to work with us on this project. I hope you have a good day.

Best regards,

Michael Munden
Lieutenant
Blaine Police Department
322 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230
(360)332-6769 Ext. 3344

From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 3:29 PM
To: Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Cc: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Hi Michael,

Can you explain how the traffic counter works? Initially there was one cord across the north bound lane of Mitchell near Adelia, perfect. Unfortunately it was moved in less than 72 hours to the south bound side where it stayed for a week +/- . Am I correct in assuming that counts the number of vehicles? There are now two cords a little further up from Adelia on the south bound side, does that track speed? If so, is it possible to put it on the north bound lane near Adelia? People speed in both directions but particularly as they come off of Peace Portal which is what I mentioned at the city council meeting.

Thanks for your time!
Liesa Smith

From: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:58 PM
To: lands@sopris.net
Cc: Michael Munden <MMunden@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: RE: Mitchell Ave

Hello Liesa,

Thank you so much for attending the City Council meeting. It was a pleasure meeting you, and I appreciate your expression regarding potential vehicles speeding on Mitchell Avenue. Public safety is very important to the Blaine Police Department and the City of Blaine. As a first step, I have coordinated with the interim Director of Public Works to install a Vehicle Traffic Counter on Mitchell. The device will give us data on the number of vehicles traveling on Mitchell and their speeds. I have already told my staff to pay particular attention to Mitchell (north) from Peace Portal. In addition, in 2019, I led the effort to have the electronic speed indicators installed on Mitchell near Cherry. Lastly, my cell phone number is 360-592-7239 if you prefer to call.

Warmly,

Donnell "Tank" Tanksley
Chief of Police
322 H Street
Blaine, WA
360-332-6769

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Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/blainewapd/status/1379977424134283265?s=21>

From: lands@sopris.net <lands@sopris.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Donnell Tanksley <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>
Subject: Mitchell Ave

Good Morning Chief Tanksley,

My name is Liesa Smith, I was the one that spoke at the city council meeting last night about the problem of speeding on Mitchell Avenue. Thank you for giving me your card! I would be very interested in hearing your thoughts on this problem. As I said, at this point we are concerned about the excess speed that we witness daily between Peace Portal and H street. It truly is frightening to see people driving 40 and even 50 mph not to mention that you take your life in your own hands when trying to cross Mitchell.

I also spoke about the fact that there are many roundabouts and stop signs throughout town, but not one on Mitchell as I'm sure you're aware. It seems as though a stop sign would be the easiest and least expensive solution. The corner of Mitchell and Adelia would be perfect to quickly slow the people that come racing off Peace Portal. Not only would this help slow people down, but it would also help make crossing safer. Can you tell me if there is a plan in place or any discussion to try and help resolve this?

Thank you again, I look forward to hearing from you.

Liesa

970-618-1348

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