

**From:** liesabsmith@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 1:14 PM  
**To:** Pat Freeman; City Council  
**CC:** Gary McSpadden; Donnell Tanksley; Jason Snow; Steve Hrutfiord; Garth Baldwin  
**Subject:** RE: Mitchell Ave

Thank you for putting a speed counter on Mitchell. However, I must ask, why is there such opposition to putting a stop sign(s) on Mitchell Ave? The results are clearly being manipulated, there's an (empty) police car parked within a block of the counter, so people speeding, see the police car, brake, and then go over the counter, not to mention the fact that being closer to Adelia, minus the police car so they slow down, would give a better reading as well. For whatever reason, you're obviously trying to skew the results, but I can't, for the life of me, figure out why. Would anybody care to chime in on this? I've spoken to a lot of neighbors about the speeding issue and they're in complete agreement, do I need to start a petition, would that do any good or are your minds made up that there will be no stop signs? As I listed at the city council meeting, there are stop signs and roundabouts throughout town but nothing on Mitchell, what is it going to take?

Thanks, and have a great weekend,  
Liesa

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**From:** liesabsmith@gmail.com <liesabsmith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 1:32 PM  
**To:** 'Pat Freeman' <PFreeman@cityofblaine.com>; 'City Council' <CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com>  
**Cc:** 'Gary McSpadden' <GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com>; 'Donnell Tanksley' <DTanksley@cityofblaine.com>; 'Jason Snow' <JSnow@cityofblaine.com>; 'Steve Hrutfiord' <SHrutfiord@cityofblaine.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Mitchell Ave

Hello all,

I want to keep this chain of emails going so wanted to notify you of a change of email address. Our [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) will be discontinued as of Friday, [liesabsmith@gmail.com](mailto:liesabsmith@gmail.com) is my new address.

That said, there has obviously been no change in the speeding issue on Mitchell and I wanted to follow up to see if stop signs are a consideration yet. Honestly, it doesn't matter how many speed limit signs, orange flags, or crosswalks get installed, bottom line, Mitchell is a racetrack and that includes for school buses too, unfortunately.

Sincerely,  
Liesa Smith

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 12:40 PM  
**To:** [liesabsmith@gmail.com](mailto:liesabsmith@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** FW: Mitchell Ave

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 12:50 PM  
**To:** 'Pat Freeman' <[PFreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto:PFreeman@cityofblaine.com)>; 'City Council' <[CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Cc:** 'Gary McSpadden' <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Donnell Tanksley' <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Jason Snow' <[JSnow@cityofblaine.com](mailto:JSnow@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Steve Hrutfiord' <[SHrutfiord@cityofblaine.com](mailto:SHrutfiord@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Mitchell Ave

Thank you for the reply!

I don't quite understand the opposition to stop signs, there's only so much police presence available. I'm very aware of the speed limit signs, we have one in our front yard which has absolutely no impact on the people speeding up Mitchell. Hopefully once the speed counter is installed it will enforce the necessity for stop signs, roundabouts, or even speed bumps.

Hoping for change on Mitchell,

Liesa

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**From:** Pat Freeman <[PFreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto:PFreeman@cityofblaine.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:55 AM

**To:** 'lands@sopris.net' <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>; City Council <[CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com)>

**Cc:** Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>; Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; Jason Snow <[JSnow@cityofblaine.com](mailto:JSnow@cityofblaine.com)>; Steve Hrutfiord <[SHrutfiord@cityofblaine.com](mailto:SHrutfiord@cityofblaine.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Mitchell Ave

Good Morning!

Public works has the following items in our work queue associated with the following inquiry:

-Conduct traffic/speed study in the following locations: Mitchell between Adelia/Alder, Mitchell between Cedar/Cherry. New counter/collater equipment has been ordered and will be installed as soon as we receive it.

-Verify visibility of the 6 speed limit signs on Mitchell between Boblett and Peace Portal. Trim street trees as necessary and install orange caution flags on all speed limit signs.

-Install crosswalks and appropriate signage at Mitchell and Cherry(this was completed 2 weeks ago.)

PW is happy to assist with the collection of data to move this forward though it is our opinion that this is ultimately an enforcement issue. A comprehensive approach of the above mentioned work order items **and** stepped up speed limit enforcement through increased police presence and deployment of radar speed enforcement equipment would likely produce the intended result of slowing folks down!

Thanks,

*Pat Freeman*

Public Works Foreman

City of Blaine

[pfreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto:pfreeman@cityofblaine.com)

360.815.7441(cell) 332.8820 ext. 3422(direct)

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) [<mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 1, 2023 9:49 AM

**To:** 'Gary McSpadden' <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>

**Cc:** 'Donnell Tanksley' <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Jason Snow' <[JSnow@cityofblaine.com](mailto:JSnow@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Pat Freeman' <[PFreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto:PFreeman@cityofblaine.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Mitchell Ave

**Importance:** High

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 30, 2023 10:25 AM

**To:** 'Gary McSpadden' <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>

**Cc:** 'Donnell Tanksley' <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Jason Snow' <[JSnow@cityofblaine.com](mailto:JSnow@cityofblaine.com)>; 'Pat Freeman' <[PFreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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

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**From:** Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>

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

**To:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)

**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; Jason Snow <[JSnow@cityofblaine.com](mailto:JSnow@cityofblaine.com)>; Pat Freeman <[PFreeman@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:18 PM  
**To:** Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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

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**From:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:09 PM  
**To:** Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>; [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net); Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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>

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**From:** Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 1:55 PM  
**To:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net); Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:MMunden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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:gmcspadding@cityofblaine.com



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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:MMunden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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

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**From:** Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:MMunden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:48 AM  
**To:** 'lands@sopris.net' <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>; Gary McSpadden <[GMcSpadden@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 3:29 PM  
**To:** Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto:MMunden@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Cc:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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

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**From:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto:DTanksley@cityofblaine.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)

**Cc:** Michael Munden <[MMunden@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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>

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**From:** [lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net) <[lands@sopris.net](mailto:lands@sopris.net)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:15 AM

**To:** Donnell Tanksley <[DTanksley@cityofblaine.com](mailto: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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