

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** David G. <tomisimo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 8:17 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Cc:** Bob & Karelyn Backstrom  
**Subject:** Letter concerning speed humps on North Birch St.  
**Attachments:** traffic-calming-n-birch-2016.pdf

Hi Kim,

I am unable to attend the hearing tomorrow concerning speed humps on North Birch street, but the issue is important to me. Please accept my attached letter and present it during the hearing on my behalf. I greatly appreciate your help.

Please let me know if you have any problems with the attached PDF file. I can resend it in a different format or I can paste it into the email if needed.

Thanks,  
David Grove.

May 16, 2016

To the city council, the mayor, and our neighbors in Canby:

My wife and I, and our two children (ages 10 and 8) live at 1400 N. Birch St. We are worried about the volume and speed of traffic on North Birch. The high traffic levels are a concern for children playing in the neighborhood. The number and speed of the cars going by each day make the area less livable and less desirable for someone looking to purchase a home. We need to explore all available options to reduce and calm the traffic on this residential street. I am convinced that retrofitting the street with speed humps is a good first step to fix the problems we are faced with.

1. North Birch is a residential street, it's not the North Canby Bypass.
2. North Birch sees far more traffic than other residential streets in Canby.
3. Given this, we need to do something to reduce the number and speed of vehicles on the street.
4. Since we can't redesign the street with curves, traffic circles, and other calming features, two good retrofits are stop signs and speed humps.
5. Speed humps will encourage drivers to not exceed the speed limit and will calm the traffic. If they cause noise problems (trucks going over the humps), they will also reduce noise problems as a percentage of out-of-town drivers choose to take another route.
6. Based on the above, I conclude that adding speed humps will have a net positive effect on our street and I support adding them.

Thank you for considering my words.

Sincerely,  
David Grove  
1400 N. Birch St.

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MAY 17 2016

*City of Canby - City Recorder*

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** Carol Wagner <Carol@CraftedbyCarol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 15, 2016 7:12 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Speed bumps on N Birch

I am in favor of speed bumps on N Birch. I don't live in the neighborhood, but I used to use it a lot and was amazed how fast people drove in residential neighborhoods. I now live on Knights Bridge and am amazed at how fast people go, even when there was a speed limit trailer on the street. It does not seem to phase them! Even in school zones where there are flashing yellow lights. If I was a police officer, I would have written hundreds of tickets in the last year and a half! Please slow down, there are lives at stake!  
Thank you for your considerations!

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Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.  
~Confucius Chinese philosopher & reformer (551 BC - 479 BC)

Carol Wagner  
[Carol@CraftedbyCarol.com](mailto:Carol@CraftedbyCarol.com)

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** Andrew Gallagher <andrew.a.gallagher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2016 8:38 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Birch Street Speed Humps

Hello,

I'd like to weigh in on the issue of speed humps on Birch.

I lived through a very similar situation in a suburb outside of Chicago 15 years ago. It was a road that had previously been 30 mph and the town built up around it. They put in a couple islands and a stop sign and reduced the speed limit to 25. The town took all of the precautions that are currently used on Birch (police presence, electronic speed sign) (at least from what I've seen in the last two years). They eventually put speed humps in and were in lawsuits over the ensuing two years because they put the wrong kind in. If the road is set to 25 mph, the speed humps need to be the type that are **least restrictive** for that posted speed limit. Eventually my old town (Geneva) took them out at a considerable cost because they hadn't gone through all the correct channels in the process of installing them.

As a local tax payer, please make sure to go through ALL the data, police reports, accident reports, comparing with other potential streets where people have been known to speed (Pine, Redwood,) etc before taking any action.

Would a solar-powered sign, the type that are used in school zones, that flashed if someone were going over 25 and displayed their speed not be a much more cost effective measure to take first?

Thank you for your time in reading this.

1185 N. Birch

Canby, OR 97013

May 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

City Council - Mr Mark Senter  
City of Canby

Dear Council;

Having lived at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> & Birch  
for 15 years, we are quite familiar with traffic  
here. With a 25 mph speed limit, there are  
occasionally only a few cars that hit 30 mph.  
We cannot remember any speed related accidents.

We believe that speed bumps will be, by far, a  
larger problem with increased noise from braking  
and accelerating at each bump, not just by  
speeders, but by all motorists - not to mention  
the huge inconvenience.

This project appears to be a solution looking  
for a problem! What is the speed rating  
for proposed bumps?

Sincerely,  
Bill & Rose Judge

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MAY 16 2016

CITY OF CANBY

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** LINDA HEMELSTRAND <hemelstrand2724@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** NO speed bumps on Birch street!!!

I am extremely disappointed that this issue is even before the City Commissioners! It is clearly the pet project of the Chairman of the safety Commission because he lives on Birch street and would prefer there was no traffic on the street! I would have hoped that our Appointed committee members consider and work for the safety of the entire city and not just their own interests!

Clearly a lot of time, money and effort has been spent on Birch street already! I travel that street twice a day as a way to and from where I live! I have never ever seen anyone speeding! Speed controls on the street have been and are effective already!

In the meantime, I have seen speeding in many other neighborhood streets such as North Redwood and on streets near our schools and playgrounds!

Its time for the safety committee to focus its efforts on safety of our children and pedestrians in Canby and end this pet project of the safety committee chairman!

I would be extremely disappointed if our city council decided to spend my tax money on one residents pet project instead of focusing its efforts on where its ready needed!

Linda Hemelstrand  
1737 N Ponderosa st  
Canby, Oregon  
503-504-2618

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** Michael Hemelstrand <mike.hemelstrand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Proposal to add Birch Street Speed Bumps - I VOTE NO!

Hello Kim,

This one puzzles me. Seems like someone has invented a problem that really does not exist.

I drive or ride my bike on this section of Birch Street at least twice per day at various times of day and days of the week. I always drive 25 mph. I rarely if ever see drivers speeding. I don't get tailgaters, and the cars in front of me consistently seem to travel at nearly the same speed I'm traveling. Drivers overall seem quite patient.

What am I missing here?

Surely we have something better to do with the Council's time, and the tax payers money!

Mike Hemelstrand  
1737 N Ponderosa St  
Canby

**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** Sara Hepler <heplersrgo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Speed bumps on N. Birch

Please forward on to City Council for citizen concern over Speed Bumps on N. Birch First, there is no denying that commuters use N. Birch. There has been an island placed at Territorial and speed limit painted on the ground.

It is time to invest in other areas of Canby that need attention to reduce speeding. As a citizen and a parent, more attention needs to be made at school, parks and neighborhoods with a high density of kids.

My concern is how the City Council prioritized which areas get city funds to keep citizens safe. Why is N. Birch an area that gets special attention while other areas are neglected? Where is the study of speeding tickets at that specified area compared to school areas or Knights Bridge Rd? Many citizens are well aware of who lives on N. Birch and are concerned that special treatment is given. I can not say how disappointed I am at this idea. City Council is known for being a "good ole boys" club. Please don't add to this concept but rather show concern for ALL of Canby's citizens and not just a select few.

Sara Hepler  
654 N Ash St



**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** Dick Templeman <rltcanby@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Birch Street Speed Humps

Hi Kim,

I hope to attend the council meeting tomorrow and in anticipation of that, wanted to pass on my feelings regarding the planned Birch St. speed humps. Please forward to the appropriate parties.

My wife and I have lived on the corner of N. Birch and 13th Street for 15 years. We were surprised with the volume of traffic on Birch St. and with the excessive speed many motorists exhibit when driving on this long stretch of road in a residential neighborhood. The problem has only intensified over the years.

I have discussed this issue with many residents in the area. We completely understand that Canby Police traffic enforcement is unable to monitor Birch St. traffic 24 hours a day. Speed humps, however, will definitely encourage motorists to obey the posted limit. The street is scheduled for resurfacing this year, so it is the most cost effective time to install these proven traffic speed control devices.

I urge the Mayor and City Councilors to approve the planned installation of speed humps on Birch Street.

Thank you.

Dick Templeman

**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** Marilyn Templeman <mdawnrt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Speed bumps

Hello,

I am a Canby resident in the N. Birch St. neighborhood. I am writing to register my wholehearted support for installing speed humps on Birch during the street resurfacing project this year. This has become a high-volume street and motorists are often driving 10 to 20 mph over the posted 25 mph limit.

Thank you

Marilyn Templeman

**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** Dana Shores <dana.shores@nmarion.k12.or.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 3:18 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Birch Street

Dear City Council,

I have some thoughts on the proposed speed bumps on Birch Street that I would like to share, but first let me give some background into who I am and what I stand for. My name is Dana Shores. I have four children attending Eccles, grades kindergarten through 6th grade. I work as a middle school special education teacher in the North Marion school district and I love my work. I have called Canby home since 2006. I LOVE the city of Canby. It is everything I had hoped it would be as a community to grow and a place to raise my children. At this stage of my life, I seem to spend more time with children, whether it is my students or my own, than I do with peers. Children are at the forefront of my consciousness and their health, happiness, and safety is my top priority. My family lives in the Auburn Farms neighborhood. We travel Birch Street often as we head out to the freeway. Birch street has become an important vein linking Territorial with Knights Bridge as more and more people have populated the north side of town. I rarely see foot or bike traffic on that road though, and I don't see many kids around at all.

So back to kids- Our neighborhood has an astonishing amount of children living in it, playing in the streets, in yards, and in common areas. We have our own designated bus that goes to Eccles with kids from our neighborhood only, because there are so many. I live on the corner of Locust and a cross street, and if there is a speeding problem in town, it is on Locust, between Territorial and NE 22nd Ave. All throughout the year, but especially in the summer, cars race at excessive (topping 60 mph) speeds mostly after the sun has gone down, but also during the day. Our cat was killed by a speeding car a few years back. We have ZERO safety measures on this street and (I believe) more than 60 children outside at play at one time or another during the day.

I'm asking that if we are to use dollars to make roads safer, we choose streets that NEED additional safety measures to keep children safe. Whether that is our street (which would be wonderful) or another street in town that is equally as dangerous for kids, that is where our focus needs to be. Birch Street has safety measures, and it is a well known fact that the chair of the commission lives on Birch Street and it does not sit well at all in our community that this street just so happens to be the focus of additional unnecessary safety measures.

If something is not done on Locust, I fear that a child will be hit and hurt or killed, as some of our pets already have. Please focus our efforts and dollars in the right direction and not simply toward the personal interest of particular individuals.

Thank you for listening,

Dana Shores

**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** Robert Shores <shoresbob@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Safety measures for speeders

Hello,

I understand that there is possible safety measures being taken to slow down drivers on Birch street here in Canby.

I would like to voice my concern about more streets that need help. I live on 20th and NE Locust. The streets are full of children from the time school gets out til dusk. We constantly have people speeding down Locust . It is a long straightaway with farmland on the west side and homes on the East side.

It is very frustrating and scary. My neighbor whose front door faces locust sits in his driveway in the evenings and tries to communicate to the speeders that they are going too fast. The speed limit is 25.

It is my opinion that not every single person who speeds is doing so purposely, although I feel many are.

This is a situation where it is not "if" a child, or person get hit, it is a question of when.

We need increased police presence and a method to slow cars down.

Like I said, our neighborhood is filled with children out playing which I think should be seriously considered over other situations when deciding who gets the resources to prevent a tragedy for both the families of the victim and the family of the driver..

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Shores  
503-730-2641

328 NE 20th Ave  
Canby OR 97013

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Robert Shores  
503-730-2641

**Daniel J. Leischner**

1341 N. Maple Street, Canby, Oregon

(971) 221-9772

danleischner@canby.com

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May 17, 2016

Bob Backstrom  
Chairman of the Traffic Safety Commission

Bob,

I am out of town on business this week and I will be unable to attend the Canby City Council meeting on May 18. In my absence, I request that you communicate to the Council my support of the proposed speed tables on North Birch Street.

As a member of the Traffic Safety Commission for several years now, and as the Chairman of the North East Canby Neighborhood Association, I have come to understand the need for calming the traffic along North Territorial and North Birch.

In order to make our residential streets safer, in order to increase livability in Canby, and in order to encourage drivers to utilize highway 99E through downtown Canby, the Traffic Safety Commission has utilized a number of traffic calming devices throughout Canby. However, N. Birch St. and N. Territorial Rd. have long needed a solution to the volume and speed of cars that use this route as a bypass between highway 99E and Knights Bridge Road. The Traffic Safety Commission has undergone a thoughtful process of research and collaboration to come up with solutions that will calm traffic along this bypass corridor. The biggest single element needed for traffic calming on N. Birch is the installation of speed tables to slow the flow of traffic on this street.

According to research done by the Traffic Safety Commission and City staff – in collaboration with the Police, Fire, and Public Works departments – speed tables are the best long-term option for N. Birch. Speed humps will allow for the smooth flow of traffic at a designated speed, while serving as a means of reducing high speed traffic.

Please convey to the Canby City Council my support for the proposed speed humps on N. Birch.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Leischner  
Traffic Safety Commission, Vice-Chair  
North East Canby Neighborhood Association, Chair  
1341 N. Maple Street  
Canby, OR 97013  
danleischner@canby.com

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** robert backstrom <bback@canby.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 5:04 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Letter for council

Kim: Will you please pass this along to the mayor, council and administrator? Thank you. Bob Backstrom

Dear Councilors:

As you probably already know, in 2013 the Canby Traffic Safety Commission was asked by Mayor Hodson, Administrator Ellis and supported by councilors Coleman and Hensley, to try to solve the bypass problem and simultaneously address traffic issues in neighborhoods throughout the city. As reports were made, other councilors expressed praise and encouragement for our efforts. We took these requests very seriously.

Lowering the speed limit on Territorial was our first step in solving the bypass problem. Step two on the bypass problem will be Birch Street humps, accomplishing two major items: Humps will slow the speeders in that neighborhood and, hopefully, redirect some of the cut-through traffic to stay on 99.

We have discussed and have plans for steps 3, 4 and 5.

While we work on the bypass issue, we also continue to focus on other neighborhoods and problems in Canby. As you surely know, we have initiated many safety projects all over the city; we do not and have not spent a disproportionate amount of time on a very complex Birch Street issue.

Our members are caring, thorough, studious, industrious, conscientious, fair, honest and ethical in our efforts to comply with your expectations.

Addressing these issues is a great responsibility; we love the job and we thank you for your support.

Bob Backstrom  
Chair, Canby Traffic Safety Commission

## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** Behrend, Bill <Bill.Behrend@coherent.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 7:44 AM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Birch Street traffic concerns

Hello There,

I'm a friend of Dan Sutton, who lives on N. Birch Street in your city. I don't live in Canby but, on my visits to Dan's home, I am amazed at the amount of traffic, the speed, the noise, and the dangers. It is incredible that this sleepy town actually has such huge traffic problems in a neighborhood.

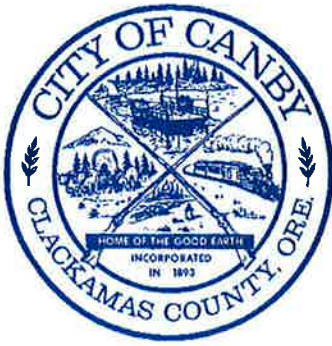
Dan asked me to jot down my observations as an outsider. Although I probably have little right to get involved, since I don't live on the street, I hope you will consider my concerns and help out those Birch Street residents who have to put up with this on a daily basis. I certainly wouldn't consider moving there till these traffic issues are addressed.

Thank you.

Bill Behrend  
Manufacturing Engineer  
Coherent Portland  
27650 SW 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Wilsonville, OR 97070  
Email: [bill.behrend@coherent.com](mailto:bill.behrend@coherent.com)  
Phone: 503-454-5765

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# City of Canby

City Council

## City Council Public Hearing Notice

**May 18, 2016**

**7:30 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers**

**155 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

**Canby, Oregon**

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MAY 18 2016

CITY OF CANBY

This City Council will be holding a public hearing on May 18, 2016 regarding Installation of Speed Humps on Birch Street between Territorial Road and NW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. *IS OK BY US, DON C. & HELEN B. BENSON 1304 N. BIRCH.*

*Don Benson Helen Benson*  
If you are in support of or in opposition to the speed humps please write a written response to the City Recorder prior to the public hearing on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 or attend the City Council meeting and voice your opinion.

For information regarding this public hearing, please contact Mark Gunter at (541) 231-8674.



## Kim Scheafer

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**From:** Craig Shinn <shinncc@pdx.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 1:46 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Birch Street Traffic Issue

City Council Members,

Thank you for having this topic on your agenda for Wednesday night. While I can't be there, I do very much want to provide my input to this matter. I am a long time resident of Canby having first moved to town in 1977. I currently live at 645 NE 22nd Ave, so on the north side of town and am very familiar with Birch street.

I am extremely opposed to speed bumps being placed on Birch Street, for several reasons. First, I am very aware that local residents on Birch street dislike the traffic that occurs on Birch street and over the years residents have been very active to get the city to do things to reduce, control, and limit traffic on Birch.

Let me state the obvious -- though not designated as a collector street -- Birch does collect traffic going from the north side of town to I-5 in particular. It is in fact the path of least resistance in that it have fewer turns, stop and is most direct. One solution is to designate it as a collector and then manage it as such. This would no doubt bring a storm of protests by residents of Birch Street, but likely reflect current traffic behavior.

I don't know what the traffic studies show -- but I know that a bunch of money has been spent to address the concerns raised by locals. The island, traffic speed signs, truck exclusion signage, pavement painted speed signs, and more (speed traps, target speed reporting signs, etc.). When I travel this street and I do at least three or four times a week, my observation is traffic is at about 25 mph but heavier than other neighborhood streets. So my experience is that while "heavy traffic" the traffic follows the posted speeds. I am opposed to spending more tax dollars to solve a problem that by my experience doesn't exist.

Let me address speed bumps -- These are truly annoying. Even if "designed for 25" they shake and rock the daylights out things and people. I can't imaging anybody living nearby wanting to bounce over the damn things on a daily basis. If that goal of locals is to make people stop using Birch street -- than I expect this would work. So would digging it up and making it a gravel road, or putting stops signs at 10th or some such.

In short, I would recommend a vote of taking no action on Birch other than repainting the pavement surface speed limit signage.

Dr. Craig W. Shinn  
Canby citizen

**Kim Scheafer**

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**From:** robert backstrom <bback@canby.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 12:58 PM  
**To:** Kim Scheafer  
**Subject:** Hump hearing

Kim: Please distribute this letter to the city council.

Dear City Councilors:

The traffic on our street in front of our home on Birch is so noisy, dangerous, dirty and polluting that I will not open the windows on the front or side of our home. That is a disappointing thing to have to say, especially when I know that you folks have neighborhood livability as a high priority goal statement every year. We even have relatives who don't like sleeping here anymore because of the noise, some from exhausts, some from trucks and most from speeders.

I also have a difficult time getting out of my garage and onto the street, and sometimes they come around the corner from Territorial so fast that they are not visible one second and the next second they are on my butt and honking at me!! Then they go into the oncoming lane and pass me.

You might have noticed that it takes longer to sell a home on Birch than it does in other neighborhoods. I really worry about our home value. This area is becoming a little more slummy every year, and it's all because of the traffic.

Finally, please install the humps for the citizens; we have begged for speed humps for 25 years!!! We keep looking forward to the livability that others in Canby talk about, and it appears that this is the opportune time for us on Birch. We've been fighting the fight for so long and we're getting old and tired.

Thank you.

Karelyn Backstrom  
1395 N. Birch St.  
Canby, OR

May 18, 2016

To Canby City Council:

My son and I moved here from West Linn a few years ago and we regret that we never spent time observing the traffic in the neighborhood prior to our purchase. If we had done that, we never would have bought our home on Birch Street. It is a terrible livability situation, and if you have not spent time here, it is difficult for anyone to fully understand the depth of the problem.

We live on the corner of Birch and Territorial and we experience hundreds of speeding drivers and illegal trucks coming around the corner in a dangerous manner every day. Then, the reverse happens later in the day with hundreds of vehicles coming up Birch, speeding and coming to a rapid stop and then accelerating over on Territorial. Morning and evening rush hours are particularly bad, as many drivers from out of town are going through our neighborhood to get to work somewhere west of Canby.

We have a very difficult time sleeping; the noise is so bad that we often cannot talk to the neighbors. I've had to wait for 25 vehicles to get my mail, and the dust and exhaust are awful.

It used to be that the weekends were better but the last few years they, too, have been very busy. The traffic is horrible and it's getting worse.

I worry that my home's value is decreasing and will be difficult to sell if this situation is not corrected.

My son and I want to thank you for installing speed humps on our street, and we hope and pray that it will be enough.

Thank you.

Barbara Rodgers  
1425 N. Birch St.  
Canby, Or 97013

May 17, 2016

To Bob Backstrom, Chair of Canby Traffic Safety Commission

Please forward my letter to the Canby City Council

I want to go on record as supporting the speed humps on Birch Street. I live on that street and have been bothered by the speeders, noise, vibrations, tires squealing, dust, unbelievably loud exhausts, you name it, it occurs every single day on my street. I've experienced successful speed humps in other cities here in Oregon and California.

I cannot carry on a conversation with my neighbors in the early evenings as cars and trucks race around the corner, accelerate as they head up to 13<sup>th</sup>. Road noise prevents any prolonged conversation.

Then, in the early morning on my way to work, so many trucks and cars come around again, speeding, no cops anywhere to be seen, my mom can't sleep, it's a disgrace.

I never see cops here during the evening rush hour, either. Where are they? If they do come here, they simply drive by and that's it.

I never would have moved here if I had known about this situation. No one should have to put up with it. This is a bad situation. Canby doesn't seem to care about its residents.

Please do whatever you can to help us. Our home value is of a concern to me, also, as who would want to live here with this awful situation.

Sincerely,

Dan Sutton  
1425 N. Birch St.  
Canby, OR 97013

I'm Bob Backstrom, a long-time Canby resident and current chair of the Traffic Safety Commission.

We're here to discuss Birch Street humps, but first I'd like everyone to know that the Canby Traffic Safety Commission responds quickly and thoroughly to every person who contacts us with traffic problems.

This meeting tonight is the result of many years of hearing from neighbors and studying the situation. It is important to note that installing speed humps on Birch is part of an overall series of recommendations to reduce bypass volume and to address neighborhood trouble spots, both of which the city administration has asked us to do.

We know that there are large numbers of out-of-town commuters who bypass downtown Canby in favor of using northside neighborhoods as a cut-through. N. Birch, which is the second leg of the Northside Canby Bypass, has experienced huge increases in commuters.

In 1990, before Birch was improved, there were well under 1000 vehicles per day.

In 2009, the city found 2900 vehicles on Birch daily. That's 87,000 vehicles per month, or 1,044,000 per year. The 1990 count had tripled.

In 2013, in an official **Northwoods Development traffic study**, there were 3265 vehicles on Birch daily-- 98,000 per month, or 1,176,000/yr. That's a 13% increase in 4 years.

In those four years, the traffic on Birch increased by 11,000 vehicles per month.

The Northwoods traffic study found speeding and volume problems on N. Birch to be so serious that they recommended a series of speed humps from KB to Territorial.

So, today, the short residential street of North Birch experiences 1.2 million vehicles per year, and that figure continues to rise dramatically. Who's paying for the damage? Not the bypassers!!!

Through dozens of phone calls, letters and statements from Birch residents, we know that excessive volume and speed of traffic negatively affects the livability of residents in the area – loud road noise, speeding, illegal exhaust systems, noisy mufflers, pollution, dust; several of our neighbors on Birch complain of sleeping difficulties; some have installed newer, quieter, expensive triple-paned noise-reduction windows and siding to help reduce the noise. Several complain that friends and relatives will not stay overnight because of the noise. Some never open their front windows. Several complain of danger getting out of their driveways, going to the mailbox, crossing the street, chatting with neighbors, and more danger every year. Some want to move but will lose home value in the process.

Several worry about deteriorating neighborhoods, lower home values and difficulty achieving fair market value when prospective buyers check out the neighborhood. Several newer residents regret not doing a better job of investigating the traffic before they bought their homes. Several worry about the high turnover of residents on N. Birch Street.

Many are worried about their children's safety. There are lots of children who live on Birch Street (twelve on my block alone), but their parents will not allow them to play in the front yards. My grandkids were never allowed to play in the front of our home. Sad to say, but we have never had a basketball hoop on our garage, ever.

You drive down that section of Birch and you never see children in their yards or near the street. There's a reason for that: If you had 4000 vehicles, many of them speeding within 30 feet of your front door, would you let your kids out front?

If you have shrubs, trees or hedges, have no kids, are hard of hearing and don't spend much time in the front yard during rush hour, you might not be as impacted or worried as some of your neighbors. But, when Dick Templeman and I went knocking on doors two years ago, at the request of the city, we found that every resident except one out of 45 homes said there is a serious problem with traffic on this street. Most favored speed humps as their number one option.

TSC has examined every possible option for Birch's problems. Retrofitting such a neighborhood is complex. Most solutions are too costly or ineffective. Signs don't work where enforcement is lacking, and

enforcement is lacking in Canby. On those rare occasions when the police have time to monitor Birch, savvy drivers can see them from three blocks away.

Speed humps have proven to be the most cost effective and most successful in existing neighborhoods all over the world, including many cities in our area. They are also much less expensive when done in conjunction with a scheduled overlay, which Birch is scheduled for this year. Speed humps are a physical, round-the-clock deterrent. Flashing signs are more expensive than speed humps, and are soon ignored. Humps cannot be ignored!

Traffic Safety members have spent hours and days examining how speed humps work. We have conducted extensive research, gone on field trips and talked with citizens around the state where speed humps are in place. We've worked with the police and fire departments to insure that the humps will not hamper the delivery of emergency services.

Arguments can be made against speed humps, but for every example where you hear that humps did not succeed, there are hundreds of cities and neighborhoods where they do succeed. When designed and implemented correctly, they are the best solution in a retrofit situation.

Canby's series of humps are copies of successful humps in nearby communities, to allow travelers to go 25 MPH. Drivers at speed limit will not bump their heads and don't need to step on the brakes. Noise was not a problem in any of the areas we visited, and those are the humps that Canby has chosen.

There are hundreds of new homes planned for the north side, plus apartments, and this means hundreds of additional vehicle trips per day, in addition to the increase in out-of-town bypassers. Do the math. Can you imagine 6000 vehicles on N. Birch Street? That day is coming, sooner than you think. This is a very serious problem for our city.

This overlay year is the best time to calm this neighborhood.

And we must continue to work diligently if we are to solve the bypass problem in addition to addressing neighborhood safety issues all over town.

Thank you.

Bob Backstrom