

Traffic FAQs

Q. It appears that my neighborhood is experiencing some cut-through traffic and I have some safety concerns. Who do I contact to report the cut-through traffic, and what is the process for speed bumps to be installed?

A. Escambia County continually strives to improve the quality of life in our residential communities. Traffic conditions, such as speeding and cut-through traffic, on residential streets can greatly affect neighborhood livability. Escambia County offers the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, which includes the installation of traffic calming devices (e.g. speed bumps) on low-speed, local roadways with the participation of the requesting neighborhood residents.

A couple important highlights of the County's Neighborhood Enhancement Program are:

- The roadway must not have a posted speed limit greater than 30 MPH.
- A contact person is required to obtain signatures of 65% of all property owners in the affected area.

For more information about the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, and any neighborhood traffic issues that you and your neighbors may be experiencing, please contact the Escambia County Traffic Operations (850-595-3404) to speak to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program Coordinator.

Q. Who do I contact about the potential of installing 4-way stops at roadway intersections, and what is the process?

A. Escambia County Traffic Operations (850-595-3404) determines the proper traffic control for intersections.

The primary purpose of a stop sign is to assign right of way, and they are not to be installed for the purpose of speed control. The addition of a four-way stop control can be an inconvenience to all the drivers using the intersection. For these reasons, three warrants have been developed and are listed in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. A multi-way stop control installation may be warranted at an intersection if any of the following conditions exist:

1. Used as an interim measure until a warranted traffic signal can be constructed.
2. Used at an intersection with a problematic crash history where previous improvements have failed to significantly reduce the crash frequency.
3. The intersection volume of traffic meets MUTCD requirements.

Q. How can I get a “Children at Play” sign installed in my neighborhood.

A. Escambia County Traffic Operations cannot permit the installation of "children at play" or like signs on Escambia County roadways. These types of signs are not recognized as official traffic control devices and their use is not sanctioned by the Federal Highway Administration or the Florida Department of Transportation.

The following are just a couple of examples of language from industry standard manuals, programs, and guidelines:

CAUTION-CHILDREN AT PLAY or SLOW CHILDREN signs should not be used since they may encourage children to play in the street and may encourage parents to be less vigilant. Such signs also provide no guidance to motorists in terms of a safe speed, and the sign has no legal basis for determining what a motorist should do. Furthermore, motorists should expect children to be "at play" in all residential areas, and the lack of signing on some streets may indicate otherwise. The signs are unenforceable and act as another roadside obstacle to pedestrians and errant motorists. Use of these non-standard signs may also imply that the involved jurisdiction approves of streets as playgrounds, which may result in the jurisdiction being vulnerable to tort liability.

Very similar language is contained in the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices which is THE industry standard regarding signage.

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program, in its "Synthesis of Highway Practice No. 139," sternly advises that "non-uniform signs such as "CAUTION—CHILDREN AT PLAY," "SLOW—CHILDREN," or similar legends should not be permitted on any roadway at any time." Moreover, it warns that "the removal of any nonstandard signs should carry a high priority."

Escambia County does not condone, advocate, or promote child play on or near its public roadways. Our position is that it is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or supervising entity to ensure that children are not exposed to this potential hazard.

Motorists' failure to comply with posted or statutory speed limits is a law enforcement issue. If you feel 'speeders' are creating a safety hazard, then we encourage you to report this to the Escambia County Sheriff's Office's Traffic Division (850-436-9903) and request targeted speed enforcement for your roadway/neighborhood.

We would also suggest considering traffic calming. The Traffic and Transportation Division will gladly provide you with information on Escambia County's Traffic Calming Program.