



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Montré D. Freeman, City Manager  
James Webster, Chief of Police

**Date:** March 22, 2024

**Ref:** Presentation - Traffic Study in 600 Block of Harney Street

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***BACKGROUND:***

Several months ago, residents brought their concerns about the traffic in the Elizabeth to Bell Street section of Harney Street to City staff and the Council. As a result, a traffic study on Harney Street was conducted by the Police Department in late January. After the results of that study were presented to the Council, an additional traffic study was suggested for Harney Street, this time in the area that runs north of Glade Street as there are different environmental conditions impacting the roadway at that end.

***ANALYSIS:***

The portion of Harney Street analyzed in the second study lies in the 600- 700 Block. The southern end of the road intersects with Glade Street and runs north intersecting with multiple residential feeder streets before terminating at the Bell Street intersection.

The Police Department conducted a traffic study on this aforementioned section of Harney Street from 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024 through 10:59 a.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024.

The counter was positioned at the intersection of Harney and York Street, and faced north toward southbound traffic.

The data revealed the following information:

1. Speed Limit= 25 mph
2. Average Speed= 23.9 mph

3. 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile for speed= 29.0 mph
4. 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile vehicle count= 7,660
5. Total vehicle count= 9,012 (Incoming 4,301) (Outgoing 4,711 )
6. Average daily peak times = 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
7. Vehicle Sizes =
 

Small	382	4.2%
Medium	8,398	93.2%
Large	232	2.6%

What is the 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile for speed?

The 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile is the maximum speed that 85% of drivers would not exceed on a given road if there were no stop signs, speed limits, or traffic signals. It's seen as the safest speed on the roadway because 85% of the vehicles are naturally at that speed or below it. The majority of drivers drive safely because it is in their own self-interest to do so.

After reviewing the data we can conclude the following on Harney Street:

1. The data supports that most vehicle operators (85%) feel comfortable driving on Harney Street at four (4) mph over the posted speed limit or below.
2. The second observation is one of volume. The study revealed that 9,012 vehicles traversed Harney Street during the study period.
3. Based on the 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile for speed (29 mph) and average speed (23.9 mph) there is no actionable speeding concern.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

This presentation serves to provide the Council with accurate traffic data on the portion of Harney Street north of Glade Street.

Staff does not recommend any instructive traffic calming measures at this time. Staff does recommend restriping the center double line in the Glade to Bell Street section of Harney Street, as well as restriping the section of Harney Street from Elizabeth to Glade Street.

A follow up traffic study will be conducted in six months as indicated in the Traffic Calming Policy.