

STAFF COMMENTS
PUBLIC WORKS AGENDA
JULY 28, 2010

99TH TERRACE SPEED STUDIES AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Policy Issue: This is an informational item and no policy decision is needed at this time.

Staff Recommendation: Continued monitoring and enforcement.

Background: Last summer on Saturday, July 18, 2009 Sandra Carocari, 70, was killed by a hit and run driver as she gardened in her front yard in the 9800 block of West 99th Terrace. The driver was identified later that same day and is currently being held in Johnson County jail awaiting trial.

At the time of the accident, the neighborhood was extremely concerned that speed was a factor in the crash. However, the investigation ultimately showed that speed was not a factor, and the driver was found to have various prescription medications in her system at the time of the accident which contributed to her loss of control.

This street had been monitored by the police frequently for speeding violations prior to the fatality accident. According to police department records, from mid-July 2008 to mid-July 2009 more than 60 separate traffic enforcement efforts were conducted along 99th Terrace, west of Antioch as a result of complaints received by the Police Department from residents living along or near this stretch of road. Shortly after the fatality accident, the police department conducted a high-intensity traffic enforcement for a two-week period. From mid to late August 2009, police officers issued 238 tickets to 196 drivers. More than 150 drivers were from Overland Park, and most lived either on 99th Terrace, or within a half mile, and west of Antioch. Of the 238 tickets issued, 141 were for driving less than 10 miles over the speed limit; one for 15 over the limit, the fastest speed recorded. Tickets also were issued for no proof of insurance, driving under the influence, and seatbelt violations. A majority of the drivers on 99th Terrace were not speeding or violating other traffic laws.

With regard to speeding concerns, a number of speed studies were conducted on 99th Terrace both before the fatality accident and several more after the crash. The speed limit on 99th Terrace varies between 25 mph from Antioch to Carter and then 30 mph to Switzer. The difference in the speed limits is based on the width of the roadway. Since 99th Terrace is a collector street, the speed limit is 30 mph on that section that is our standard 36' wide street and then 25 mph where the cross-section is only 32' wide. Speed studies before the accident were taken in 2002 and showed more of a speeding issue on the east end (the 25 mph section) where the 85th percentile speed was approximately 34 mph. Numerous speed studies conducted after the fatality accident showed similar results (the west end being fairly compliant with the posted 30 mph speed limit and the east end being more non-compliant with respect to the 25 mph posted speed limit), although over time the 85th percentile speeds have decreased, now averaging between 30 mph and 34 mph. People

tend to be traveling faster as they approach the 30 mph zone, or conversely as they leave that zone and are headed east.

Staff evaluated 99th Terrace for possible traffic calming measures based on the results of the studies. However, the combined results of the speed studies and traffic volume data do not support constructing traffic calming measures on this street.

At this time, staff proposes to continue monitoring 99th Terrace and the police department will continue to run periodic enforcement efforts. Should conditions change significantly and traffic calming measures are needed, we will work with the neighborhood to find an acceptable approach.

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments: A. Enforcement Map
B. Speed Study Results