



As a new school year gets under way, the Bountiful Traffic Safety Committee and the City Council are continuing their safe driving campaign to help remind drivers of their responsibility to drive better and safer. Our Traffic Management Program is designed primarily to “Educate” drivers to slow down and become responsible drivers within our community. We have 3 major concerns of which drivers in Bountiful need to be reminded to observe:



1. All residential streets in Bountiful have a 25 mph speed limit. Downtown Main Street is also only 25 mph. Major collector streets are 30 mph and 35 mph, and only 500 West and Main Street north of 400 North are 40 mph.



2. Stop at stop signs, not half-way through the intersection. Slowing down and rolling through an intersection is not a stop.



3. Red means stop. Yellow means caution; it means slow down and prepare to stop, not hurry up and try to beat the light before it changes! Green means proceed with caution and observe the speed limit.

Our goal is to effectively and efficiently serve the citizens of Bountiful by having this Traffic Management Program to help address and correct the driving habits of our citizens. We plan to do this by using the 3 E's of public awareness: **Education, Enforcement and Engineering.**

## School Zones are 20 mph

In addition to these three major concerns, we would like to remind drivers to be aware of the many school zones in our neighborhoods now that school is back in session. All school zones are equipped with yellow flashing lights, and these areas have been marked out on the pavements to remind drivers that you are in a school zone! Many of these areas also have crossing guards to help with the safe crossing of the school children. **The speed within these school zones is 20 mph!** We urge drivers to please drive alert and to watch for these flashing lights and school

crossings and slow down and obey the signs and the traffic safety crossing guards as you approach a school area. We want our children to be safe, as they are walking or riding a bike to school. Please drive carefully near these school zones.

Here are some safety helps for drivers, parents, and children as we begin a new school year. Please read these tips and help make our Bountiful streets and neighborhoods safer by obeying the traffic laws and paying more attention to your driving habits.

Bountiful is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and by driving safely and responsibly we can have a much safer community as well.

Respectfully,

Councilman Tom Tolman

Chairman, Bountiful Traffic Safety Committee

## **Safety Tips**

### **Motor Vehicle Safety**

Every person riding in a car or truck needs his or her own seat belt. Do not let passengers ride in storage areas or on other people's laps.

Children always ride restrained with a car seat or seat belt and in the back seat.

Infants should ride in rear-facing car seats until at least 20 lbs (9 kg) *and* at least 1 year old. Do not put a rear-facing car seat in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger air bag.

Children over 1 year old and between 20 lbs (9kg) and 40 lbs (18 kg) should ride in forward-facing car seats.

Children ages 4 to 8 between 40 lbs (18 kg) and 80 lbs (36 kg) should ride in booster seats restrained with lap and shoulder belts. A regular seat belt won't fully protect a child this size in a crash.

Children and adults over 80 lbs (36kg) should use a seat belt for every ride.

## **Safety Tips**

### **Pedestrian Safety**

Teach children the following pedestrian safety rules:

Do not cross the street alone if younger than age 10.

Never play in the road.

Always try to walk on paths or sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk facing road traffic.

Look both ways for danger before and while crossing the street.

Walk, do not run, into the street.

Dress in bright colors or wear retro reflective materials so drivers can easily see you.

## Safety Tips

### Bike Safety

Teach children the following bicycle and motorbike safety rules:

Wear a bicycle or motorcycle helmet on every ride. Check to see if your helmet should have a safety certification.

Ride so drivers and cyclists can see you.

Look both ways for oncoming vehicles before turning or crossing a street. Go only when it is clear.

Watch out for potholes, cracks, rocks, wet leaves, storm grates, railroad tracks or anything that could make you lose control of your bike.

Make sure your bike fits your height, weight and age.

Inflate tires properly.

Check brakes before riding.

Bikers should ride one behind another and with the flow of traffic.

Here are some photos you can use.



# Safety

The promotion of bicycling and walking to school provides an opportunity to address safety. Every year, about 25,000 child pedestrians are injured by motor vehicles. Reducing the risk of injury includes teaching children pedestrian and bicycle skills. It also means reminding drivers to watch for others using the road. Hazardous conditions along routes to school need to be identified and fixed.

Some of the best ways to increase the safety of a child's walk or bike to school are to:

- provide safe, well-maintained walkways separate from vehicles;
- teach children to cross streets at marked crossings, and provide ample, well-designed, accessible, and when necessary monitored crosswalks;
- slow traffic in neighborhoods and near schools.

## The "Four E's"

Consider the range of tools available to address safety.

### **Education.**

Programs used to teach children safe walking behaviors, such as proper crossing at crosswalks, and adults safe driving behaviors.

### **Encouragement.**

Any efforts to encourage safe, healthy, regular walking, such as special events, announcements, public relations, and incentive programs.

### **Enforcement.**

Efforts by law enforcement to aggressively enforce posted speeds and traffic laws to create safer driving habits; often used in neighborhoods and near schools.

### **Engineering.**

The design and building of facilities – roadways, sidewalks, lighting, signs – to enhance the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Includes, for example, traffic calming methods.

Parents and other adults worry about children encountering bullies or strangers on the way to school. There may be a fear of kidnapping or assault. While the actual occurrences are extremely rare, consideration should be taken to address parent fears and create a plan to reduce risk. Parent accompaniment of children on the walk to school is one way to solve this concern. Some communities use walking school buses as a way to have an adult presence on the street.

The promotion of safe walking and biking to school addresses the risks described here. When there are more adults and children walking and biking on the road, the community becomes accustomed to their presence.

# Neighborhood traffic safety

## How to save lives...

As a driver

As a parent

As a resident

## What can you do to reduce traffic accidents and save lives?

A recent summary study of speeding complaints from homeowners living on residential streets in Bountiful showed that the average speed was 33.8 mph. The result adds credibility to the general claim that a majority of motorists drive over the 25 mph speed limit on residential streets. Those who exceed the speed limit come from all age groups; they are not just teenagers or commuters, but everyone alike.

### **What does this mean?**

The average driver in Bountiful drives faster than they should on residential streets. Why does this happen?

Local residents drive faster on their local streets because they feel familiar and comfortable.

Outsiders use local streets as short cuts to busy arterial roads.

For children and the elderly, this can pose a special hazard.

## How can you make your neighborhood street safer?

### **AS A DRIVER... Drive slower**

Realize that speeding through residential neighborhoods will make very little, if any, difference in the total time it will take to complete your entire trip. In addition, driving at slower speeds allows you more time to react to the unexpected, such as a child darting out from behind a parked car.

Remember that the legal speed limit on all residential streets is 25 mph, unless otherwise posted.

Make a conscious effort to drive 25 mph or slower on all residential streets. Remind family members and neighbors of the speed limit.

### **Avoid using local streets as short cuts**

The more we use residential streets as short cuts, the more we disrupt the quality of life in neighborhoods. Neighborhood cut-through traffic increases noise and pollution in residential areas and results in a greater threat to the safety of children.

### **Observe all the rules of the road (traffic laws)**

Do not take chances even on short local trips to the shopping mall, etc. Most accidents occur close to home.

### **Change your driving pattern on residential streets**

Learn to adopt a different attitude! You should expect the unexpected on residential streets. It may not be your fault if you have an accident, but imagine the pain you would live with if you hit a child or elderly pedestrian.

### **Yield to pedestrians**

Pedestrians have the right-of-way at intersections whether crosswalks are painted on the street or not. Remember that it is someone's child, mother, father, brother, or sister crossing the street!

*Be aware that children are the primary pedestrians on neighborhood streets and that they are the most likely victims of careless drivers. Most young children — especially those under nine years of age — have great difficulty in making sound and safe judgments about traffic dangers.*

## **AS A PARENT... Teach your children the rules of the road**

Ensure that your children know and understand the rules of the road.

*Studies have shown that smaller children have difficulty in making safe judgments about traffic dangers. Do not let your children play in the street. Warn them against darting into the road after pets or toys. Teach your children to stop, look both ways, and listen before crossing streets. Make sure your children know that even though cars are supposed to stop, they may not.*

### **Supervise your children's trip to and from school**

Plan a safe walking route to school. Walk it with your child and point out areas where they should be especially careful. Check with your school district for safe walking routes. Advise the school district of unsafe walking and crossing areas for children.

### **Take or arrange for transport of smaller children to and from school.**

#### **Set a good example**

Drive the speed limit and drive with courtesy. Do not double park. Do not let children off on the correct side of the road when delivering or picking them up from school.

### **Ensure that your children are properly equipped to ride bicycles on local streets.**

You need to equip your children with two things:

The proper equipment, bright clothing and an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) approved helmet.

A sound understanding of the rules of the road.

### **Don't rush**

Do not rush while driving. Organize yourself to leave a little earlier. In particular, do not rush getting children to and from school. Your urgency may transmit to them, causing them to disregard traffic safety and run headlong across the street.

## **AS A RESIDENT...**

### **Take the initiative**

Let your Bountiful Traffic Safety Committee staff know about problem areas along your street, such as:

Damaged or missing traffic signs

Dangerous pot-holes

Brush or trees that obscure driver's vision of signs, curbs, other vehicles, intersections, etc.

### **Talk with the Bountiful Police Office**

Consistent traffic problems, particularly speeding, should be reported to the police. Let them know when the problem is more prevalent so they can conduct more effective enforcement. Ask for occasional traffic enforcement to deter speeders.

### **Get involved and do your part to improve traffic safety**

Establish a neighborhood traffic safety subcommittee to any homeowners association, architectural control committee, neighborhood watch organization, etc. that may exist in your area. If none of these types of associations is present in your neighborhood, establish a traffic safety committee. Once a traffic committee or subcommittee is in place, contact the Traffic Safety Officer at the Bountiful Police at 298-6000. You can also find out about the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. Through this program you can use equipment for educating drivers who are speeding on your neighborhood streets. There are Radar/Reader board cars and equipment available at the Bountiful Police Office for you to check out and use in your neighborhood.

## **Top Driving Mistakes that Cause Crashes**

### **1. Multi-tasking While Driving**

- **Driving Tip:** When You Turn the Car On, Turn the Gadgets Off. No matter how busy your day is, when you're on the road, focus only on driving. Catch up on other activities later and avoid unnecessary accidents.

### **2. Following Too Closely**

- **Driving Tip:** One Thousand One, One Thousand Two. Leave a two-second cushion between you and the vehicle ahead - it could save your bumper and your life. Make sure to double or triple that time when the weather is bad or the pavement is slick.

### **3. Failure to Yield on a Left-Hand Turn**

- **Driving Tip:** Check the Flow Before You Go. Look at the street you are turning into to make sure that no vehicles or pedestrians are in your path.

### **4. Incorrect Merging**

- **Driving Tip:** Yellow is for Yield. Accidents often occur when you are stuck behind a driver who interprets yield as stop. Don't be the guilty party. Use the ramp as a means for merging into traffic, not causing it.

### **5. Backing Up**

- **Driving Tip:** Look Over Your Shoulder. Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear. Your mirrors have a margin of error; don't rely on them alone. Look over your shoulder before backing up.