West Central Neighborhood

Traffic Observations and Suggestions
October 2026

General Everyday Observations

- Routine speeding
- Reckless driving / drag racing
- Excessively loud cycles / crotch rockets / cars backfiring
  - Waking up folks during night
  - Feeling unsafe to walk
- Running red lights
- Going the wrong way down one-way streets
- Ignoring existing stop signs
- Vehicles speeding up when seeing pedestrians

- ALL of the above serious concern for the neighborhood and three schools

Coordinated Intentional Observations

- 18 +/- neighbors - assigned days (loosely)
- Focused on West Washington and West Jefferson
- Called non-emergency FWPD number to report
- Goal:
  - For us to assess when and where biggest problems are
  - Gather some data for us and ‘powers-that-be’
  - Help determine how to move forward and be a part of the solution
  - Assist the FWPD in localizing their limited resources (not to harass)

Summary Findings

- Most prevalent days and times
  - Fridays and Sundays
  - 5-10 p.m. + 10 p.m.-7 a.m.
- Issues
  - Reckless driving both cars and motorcycles (equally distributed)
    - Speeding + drag racing
  - Severe noise
    - Related to speed, but also modified vehicles

Accidents - happening with increased regularity within and outside West Central.

Most recent: 10/12/26 -

W. Jefferson @ Garden -

Semi truck changing lanes at the curve, forced a car into the barriers - both traveling too fast!





Proposed Ideas / Solutions

A Council / City Leader Shift Required

- Washington and Jefferson are no longer fast-paced throughways to get from one side of town to another
  - Downtown development has been spearheaded and supported by leaders/council +
  - Now more destinations, booming adjacent neighborhoods, huge developments
  - More people living here, more people visiting
  - Yet, cars and speed are still the focus AND there's often resistance to calming/slowing
- These two realities, development + speed/cars/trucks, cannot coexist
  - Rectify what is already there AND
  - Every new development moving forward plans from the start to focus on walking and biking and people
    - Not just where they'll park, but where they'll WALK - walking traffic patterns
- There are alternative routes for cars and trucks moving through (Coliseum Blvd, 69/469) - Wash and Jeff are no longer state roads
- All of the above is critical for all suggestions on next slides

Related to: Signage, Crosswalks, Traffic Lights

- Large marked pedestrian crossing on Washington and Jefferson at Washington Elementary School and Emmanuel Church/School
- Flashing lights for the school zone signs during school hours
- ‘Wrong Way/No Left Turn’ signage at Rockhill from Jefferson AND ‘Wrong Way/No Right Turn’ signage at Rockhill from Washington
- Speed limit signage to one per block along both Washington and Jefferson
- Permanent ‘Your Speed Is’ electronic signs possibly placed before College on Jefferson and before school on Washington
- Pedestrian crossing yield sign at the existing piano crossing at Garden/Jefferson
- Add an addition piano crossing + pedestrian yield sign at Garden/Washington AND Wayne/Van Buren
- Additional traffic lights to minimize the drag racing from College southwest
- Parking lane start lines or bump outs painted yellow - do this for every road repair moving forward, e.g. Jefferson b/w Van Buren and Rockhill and temporary ones in the interim

Related to: Cameras, Police Radar, Speed Limits

- Noise ordinances enforced + ordinance/fines posted (signage)
- Sound cameras on both streets at key locations for consistent noise enforcement for illegally modified exhaust systems and trucks using streets beyond allowed hours (illegal in Indiana - must use handheld radar
- Regular police radar patrol on both streets for speeding, aggressive/reckless driving, blatant noise
- Reduce speed limit to 25-30 mph on both streets
    - Do not increase to 35 mph until new traffic light at St. Francis Drive/Jefferson
    - 20 mph at both school zones

Varied Suggestions

- Get the Fort Wayne Traffic Taskforce to be active at Jefferson and Washington
  - Currently at Coliseum and Lima
- Ambulances are using Jackson now rather than Van Buren
- Restrict large trucks from passing through downtown and West Central
- Obtain the traffic citation quantities during our span of intentional calling
  - Compare to last year at this time
  - To assess whether this calling is helpful
- Liaison - because this is not a quick fix
  - Helpful - yes or no?
  - Process, responsibilities, etc.?

Action Steps - Let's work together!

1. Geoff is checking on whether city has jurisdiction on vehicle modifications
    a. Wants to address is at the dealer/mechanic level
2. Neighborhood grant (implemented next spring) will put in parking bump outs on the north side of W. Washington (also shortens length of cross walk - safer for pedestrians); median from bridge to Jackson on Main; flashing beacons for school zones.
    a. Doing some 'designing over the winter' - can we ensure WCHPC and our liaison involved?
    b. Nick wondering if we can do temp bump outs on Jefferson until big project is done
3. Visit FW/Hilton/Grand Wayne looking to form a coalition, also bringing in developers and DID re: noise issue. Hopefully WCNA can be included.
    a. Lindsey M. offered to be this person! Need to connect and inform of action thus far.
    b. Mike Rogers and Phil Jackson also interested in some layer of liaison duties
    c. Also connect them all to the WCHPC - Shelley and Tom.
4. WC be made aware of the project managers on each WC job - Bob Weidner and Ezra _____ are latest two - check in with Nick on details of this - look at EngageFW page!!
5. Check and report to Phil (photos, etc.) on speed limit signs within WC.
6. Told that lowering the speed limit already in the works, light at St. Francis Dr. still being sorted out, additional officers for enforcement in the works.

Potential Roles

- Be a go-between/liaison with city for any development in WC
  - So WC has info needed and WC can offer valuable info, e.g. historic preservation, etc. during planning rather than at the 11th hour
- Connect with project managers per Nick's suggestion
  - What does this look like and when does it happen?
- Connect with WCHPC - Shelley and Tom
  - Very knowledgeable and already active
- Join the coalition of downtown businesses + Visit FW to address the issues, traffic and otherwise
  - Good to have a voice and seat at the table

Things we can realistically do (w/decreased funding from state and council)

- Petitions for action steps - change light times, insert bumps in road, urban trail, bigger citywide legislation for things like modified cars, change speed limits,
  - 50% of neighbors for things that don't need construction
  - 75% of neighbors for things that do
- Noise ordinance won't be ticketed by FWPD (possibilities for 'quiet zone' but still not enforced)
- Police repo cars rather than give tickets which they're finding don't work in the long term.
- Modified cars - need to prove to state via lobbying, has to go through council so has to be a problem in everyone's district
- Yes to bump outs - they work
- Narrow streets in little ways - clean up park strips - trim trees, lighting, plants so it really looks like a neighborhood
- Traffic study - to determine patterns and needs (for lights e.g.)

Things liaisons can do

- Group meeting for Lindsey, Phil and Mike to sort this out
- Lindsey’s role
  - Communicate with Phil and Nick
  - Telling us how to move forward and how we can support her
  - Finding money - taking it back to the city
  - Communicate with CIB (Hilton, etc.)
- Phil Jackson and Mike Rogers
  - Communicate with WC Board as well as WC HPC and our traffic group
  - More TBD