



Dear Old West Lawrence neighbor,

In response to resident concerns, a pilot test of traffic control devices will soon begin in Old West Lawrence. This is very likely to affect your daily driving. Please review this flyer and map so you can be prepared for temporary changes to come.

<b>What changes will be made?</b>	The city will install temporary traffic calming devices - median barriers and diagonal diverters - that are designed to discourage cut-through traffic by limiting turns or through traffic at key points.
<b>How will this test affect me?</b>	As described below, we expect this will make our neighborhood safer for residents and improve our quality of life. However, many OWL residents will have to take less direct routes to and from their homes, and an additional turn or two. <u>We suggest you use the attached map to identify your routes.</u>
<b>Why are we conducting this test?</b>	Traffic safety is the #1 concern of OWL residents. A survey taken this summer and a recent high-speed collision of cut-through drivers at 8th and Indiana illustrate the dangers. (See Tinyurl link below to view a video of the collision and both links for more information)
<b>What does the city's "before" testing show?</b>	The city installed equipment in the neighborhood to measure traffic volumes and speeds, and found high volumes of traffic traveling at speeds as high as 59 MPH on local OWL streets, and an incredible 80 MPH on Tennessee Street. (See City of Lawrence link below for details)
<b>Expected impact on cut-through traffic</b>	Forcing cut-through traffic to make additional turns to get through the neighborhood will cause many of those drivers to avoid our neighborhood and use the collector streets Tennessee and Kentucky Streets to go north and south. A few might use Maine, which is a less-traveled collector street. We hope to reduce traffic volumes on OWL local streets by at least 25 percent, and reduce risks of injury to OWL residents. Note - these devices never stop traffic or force U-turns.
<b>Desired impact on high-speed traffic in OWL</b>	The city does not have data to allow them to project an impact on speeding, but the consensus of involved OWL residents is that most of the high-speed traffic in OWL is cut-through traffic, so we expect a decrease in the number of cars going 30-59 MPH. Reducing top speeds would dramatically improve pedestrian safety. The OWLA will insist on speed enforcement wherever there are problems.
<b>Why not use 'spot' solutions?</b>	The OWL neighborhood has been working for decades to try to reduce cut-through traffic and improve traffic safety. Over the years, spot solutions like restoring brick surfaces or installing traffic humps and stop signs have been ineffective or just pushed traffic to other streets.
<b>What happens after the test?</b>	This is just a test with easily removed temporary devices. We will make a decision on whether or not to install more permanent devices based on how much the devices reduce cut-through traffic, and on the feedback of OWL residents.
<b>What is the test schedule?</b>	The temporary traffic control devices will be installed on November 1-2 (weather permitting) and left in place until Spring. Please be patient and flexible while we test this method of making OWL safer.
<b>What do these devices look like?</b>	The temporary devices are functional, but not very attractive. If we decide to move forward after the pilot test, the neighborhood will be involved in selecting a design for the new devices, perhaps incorporating bricks and/or plantings. (See links below for more details)
<b>What if there are problems?</b>	The city plans to test for a few months to allow time for people to get used to the new routes. However, if the devices cause major safety or other problems, adjustments can be made.
<b>How can I prepare for this test?</b>	Please review the map to understand how your daily routes will change during the test. The diagonal diverters will force right turns from 7th and 8th and left turns from Mississippi. The median barriers will force right turns from the north/south streets and prevent left turns from 7th and 8th.
<b>How can I report issues?</b>	We have set up an OWL form for reporting issues and concerns. See OWL link below for the reporting form. Please dial 911 for emergencies.

**For more information, please see the map on the reverse, and visit the city website [lawrenceks.org/mso/safer-speeds](http://lawrenceks.org/mso/safer-speeds) and the OWL data repository at [tinyurl.com/owlpilottest](http://tinyurl.com/owlpilottest).**