



THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN WEST VIRGINIA

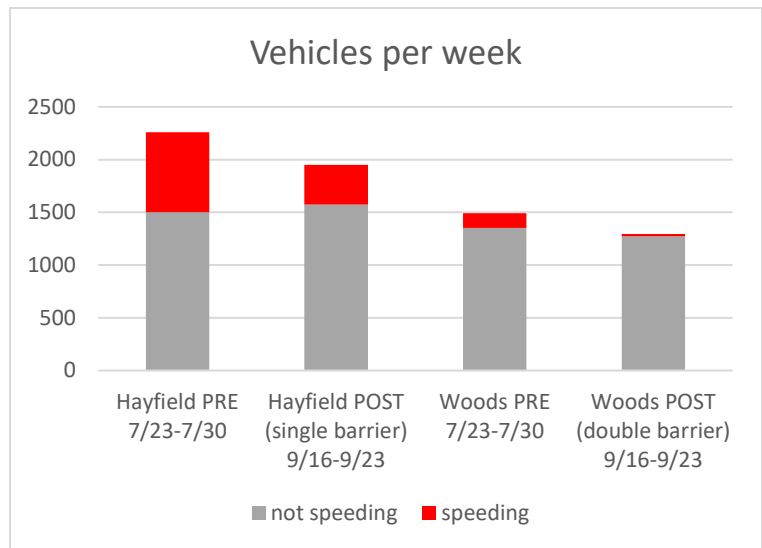
Healthy Streets

Western Avenue Fact Sheet

Installed: August 28th, 2020

Traffic Study Findings

- Speeding rates are down dramatically!
 - Hayfield
 - 34% speeding before
 - 19% speeding after
 - **51% drop** in # of speeding vehicles
 - End of Woods
 - 10% speeding before
 - 2% speeding after
 - **84% drop** in # of speeding vehicles



Top speed at hayfield before installation was 42mph!

Why is Western Avenue a Healthy Streets pilot project?

- Although the rail-trail is just down the hill, it is more than a **20-minute walk** for most from here
- Other greenspaces and most formal recreation are equally or farther away
- Already a common walking route, so we know at least confident people find this area safe
- **About 1/3 of traffic here is already non-motorized**
- It is a parallel route to Collins Ferry that can be used as part of a **“safe route to school”**
- Did not have to do too much to meet calm traffic goals (already a somewhat calm street)

Transit / Bus Services

- Based on your strong public input, in October the MLTA board chose to **continue serving** this route with the Northern Connector! Not many have ridden it since January, so get out and ride it!

Snow Removal

- Healthy Streets will **NOT affect** operations or priority of snow removal on Western Avenue.

What type of citizen input did we have before installation of this pilot?

- Direct requests from half a dozen families in June and July
- Spoke with more than 30 people over 10 site visits; >90% support
- Pedestrian Safety Board public review
- Traffic Commission public review

What is a Healthy Street designed to do?

- Reduce speeding traffic and remind drivers that roads are **shared spaces**
- Encourage outdoor physical activity **close to home**
 - Particularly among neighbors who might otherwise hesitate
- Help to turn streets back into **places**, not just a means of travel
- Diversify the usage of our most expensive public infrastructure
 - Get more bang for our collective buck!
- Give us more places to be outside, taking pressure off crowded parks and trails

How do the sawhorses and cones do the work?

- They introduce uncertainty and “friction” in automobile traffic
 - This increases driver alertness, and can reduce reaction speeds by more than 60%
 - Reduced reaction times mean that drivers can stop sooner if they encounter something unexpected, **such as a child on a bicycle over a blind hill or around a blind curve**
- Narrowed travel lanes, and the paired barriers that create a slalom (AKA a “Chicane”) are both tried and true methods of reducing travel speeds on residential roads
 - Reduced travel speeds lower risks of severe injury and death when traffic crashes occur
 - Reduced travel speeds increase perceptions of safety in non-motorized users and help to encourage people to feel free to use the streets for different activities and means of transport

Look for more adjustments to the traffic calming, and a survey - soon!

**Thanks for your continued patience as we
explore traffic calming options in this Healthy Streets pilot.**

Questions or comments?

info@morgantownwv.gov