

November 30, 2023 (Draft)

Kitsap County Board of Commissioners
Christine Rolfes, Commissioner
Katie Walters, Commissioner
Charlotte Garrido, Commissioner

Re: Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Resolution

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

The Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facilities Community Advisory Committee (NMFCAC) is advising the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to authorize and facilitate the creation of a community task force to research, study, and propose a plan for implementing Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) in Kitsap County. To move ASE forward, the Board's authorization would be required for the task force to begin the analysis of possible ASE locations. The ASE task force would necessitate the participation and collaboration of the Kitsap County Public Works Department and the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office to study, design, install, maintain, operate, and evaluate the ASE program. Furthermore, in order to implement ASE, a county ordinance would need to be developed and gain the BOCC's approval. ASE research shows when county leaders and community members understand how ASE works and they have a voice in how it is deployed, the success of an automated enforcement program increases. With that said, our committee is asking the Board to support the formation of an ASE team as a starting point to improving the safety and comfort of non-motorized travel in Kitsap County.

Slower speeds equal safer travel

Over the past several months, the NMFCAC has been researching ASE and has learned the program is being used in many Washington State city School Speed Zones and School Walk Areas to effectively change driver behaviors and reduce crashes. Kitsap County has a responsibility to improve safety by identifying areas where ASE is needed, particularly near schools where children walk and ride bicycles and are especially vulnerable due to their small size, immature brain development, and unpredictable behavior. We know families are more likely to allow their children to walk or ride bicycles to and from school where driver speeds are slower, making non-motorized travel safer. Considering there are 37 public schools in unincorporated Kitsap County, of which 28 are elementary schools, ASE deserves an in-depth analysis by community stakeholders.

ASE effectively reduces speeding behavior

Kitsap County traffic data showed from 2013 to 2022, speeding was identified as a contributing factor in 19% of traffic fatalities. Our very own, Washington State's Target Zero Plan, encourages **enforcement** as a strategy to reduce speeding and accidents. Automated Speed Enforcement could greatly increase the ability of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office to enforce speed limits. Across the state, ASE has proven to be effective at encouraging slower driving speeds and enforcing lower speed limits in areas where ASE is installed. In addition, ASE evaluations show most ASE citations are paid and most people who receive an ASE citation only get one. All of these factors point to the success of targeted ASE programs.

Support safer non-motorized school zones

Through diligent preliminary research the NMFCAC believes ASE would make non-motorized travel safer for some of our most vulnerable community members. Keeping that in mind, we urge the Board to provide the resources necessary to facilitate a community-based ASE task force.

Sincerely,

Non-Motorized Facilities Community Advisory Committee

Jess Chandler, At-Large
Chair

Laura Westervelt, District 3
Vice-Chair

Deborah Weinmann, District 1

Scott Satter, District 1

Brian Watson, District 3

Nathan Manefee, At-Large

Richard Feeney, At-Large

DRAFT

**Kitsap County Non-Motorized Facilities Community Advisory Committee
Resolution In Support of Implementing Automated Speed Enforcement
November 30, 2023**

Whereas the purpose of the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Community Advisory Committee (NMC) is to provide advice to the Kitsap County Commissioners and staff on ways to improve the safety and comfort of non-motorized travel in Kitsap County;

Whereas Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) aligns with the Transportation goals of Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan (2016) Transportation Policy 1 and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Goals 8 and 9, both aimed at prioritizing safe non-motorized improvements around schools;

Whereas Washington State law RCW 46.63.170 authorizes counties to implement ASE in School Speed Zones, School Walk Areas, Hospital Speed Zones, and Park Speed Zones;

Whereas RCW 46.63.170 requires an analysis of the proposed location of ASE cameras before developing an ordinance;

Whereas RCW 46.63.170 requires cities and counties to pass an ordinance authorizing the use of ASE;

Whereas a local ordinance must include the restrictions and requirements for ASE described in RCW 46.63.170;

Whereas ASE requires the active participation of and collaboration by the Kitsap County Public Works Department and the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office to study, design, install, maintain, operate, and evaluate within the respective legal authority granted to such agencies;

Whereas the success of an automated enforcement program, and the community's acceptance of the program, is greatly increased when both county leaders and citizens understand how the program works and have a voice in how it is deployed;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Community Advisory Committee recommends to the County Commissioners that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners take measures to authorize and facilitate the creation of a task force to research, study, and advise Kitsap County on implementing ASE, and would be made up of elected officials and staff from Kitsap County Public Works, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Kitsap County Courts, Kitsap County Public Health, volunteers from the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Community Advisory Committee, elected officials and staff from Kitsap County school districts, representatives from the Suquamish and S'Klallam Nations, and other interested stakeholders;
2. The Board of County Commissioners take measures to authorize the analysis of possible locations for ASE installation as required by RCW 46.63.170;
3. The Board of County Commissioners consider an ordinance that would authorize the implementation of ASE in Kitsap County as required by and in accordance with RCW 46.63.170.

Respectfully submitted by the Kitsap County Non-Motorized Community Advisory Committee