

# Excessive City Vehicle Speeds As Observed from Locust Avenue December 2015 – January 2016

February 1, 2016

Analysis conducted by a Charlottesville citizen who has  
40 years of experience with tracking moving objects.

# The Continuing Problem



Locust Avenue residents see reckless speeding every day, with or without speed trailers, \$200 signs, enforcement, or anything else that's been tried so far.



We're working with NDS to effect street modifications, but more is needed...



40 MPH

Dual rear axle, on snow-lined streets, and way over the yellow lines.



2016-01-26 11:10:45

40 MPH

On snow-lined streets.

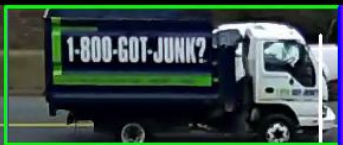


2016-01-28 14:20:33

Quite large What's the emergency stopping distance?

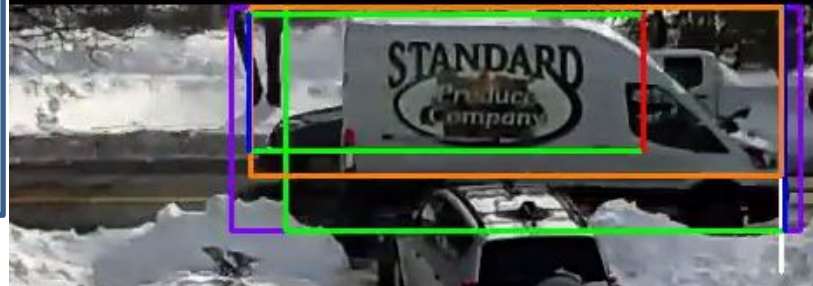
36 MPH

Big trucks speeding: snow or no snow



36 MPH

On snow-lined streets.



2016-01-26 10:48:17

31 MPH

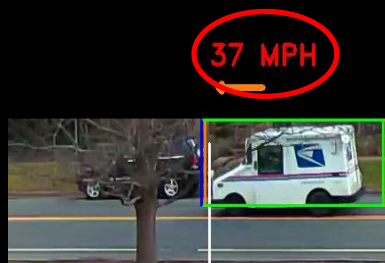
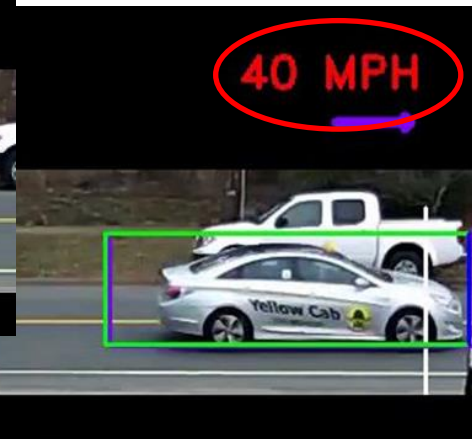
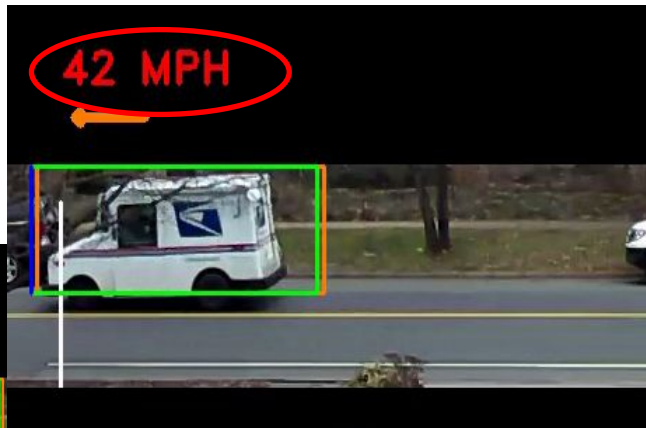
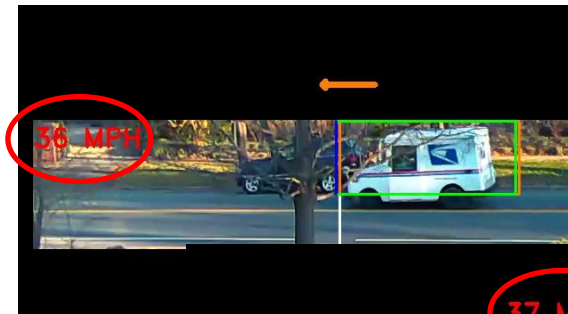
30 MPH



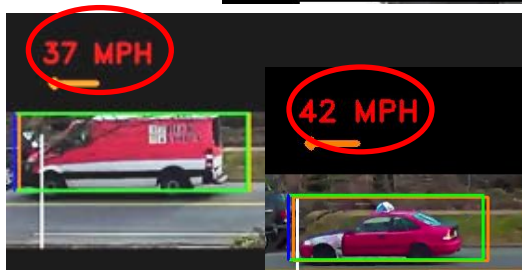
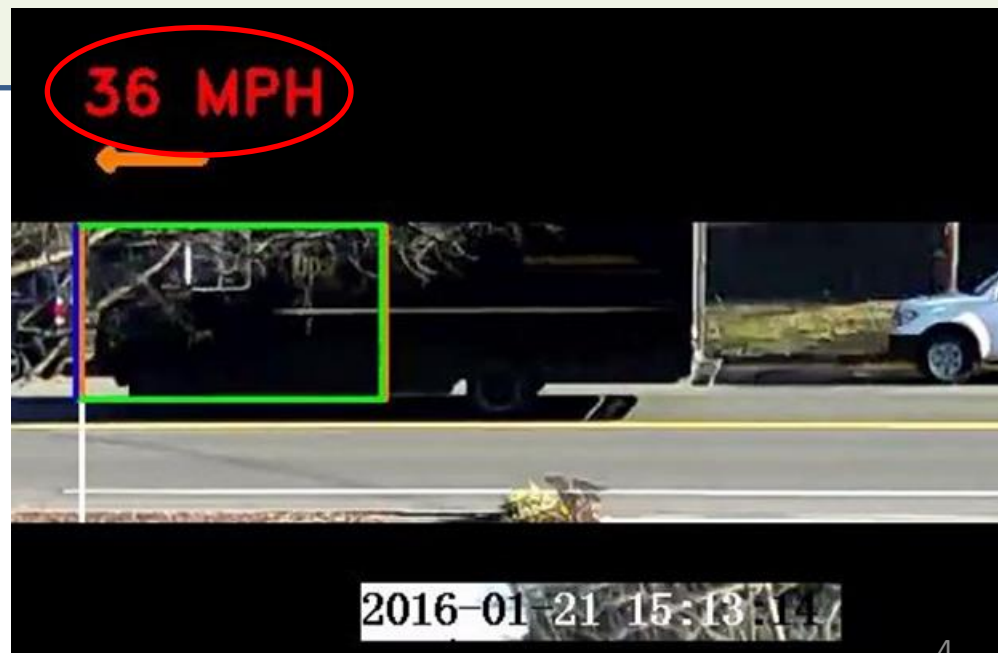
2016-01-21 15:29:26





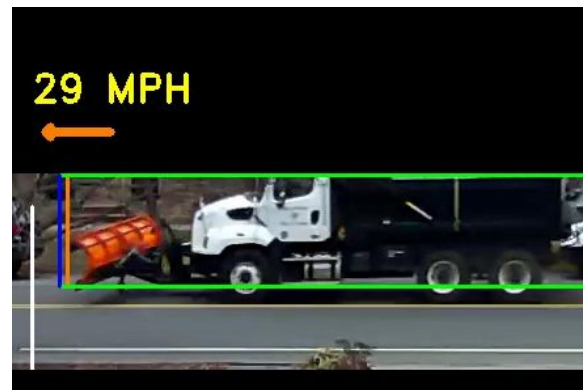
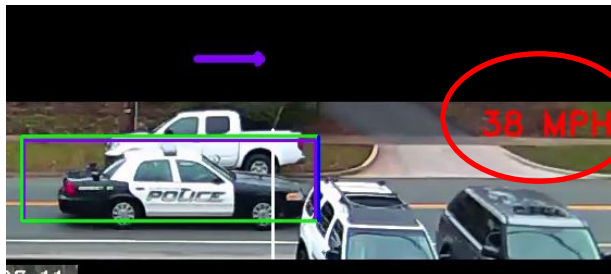
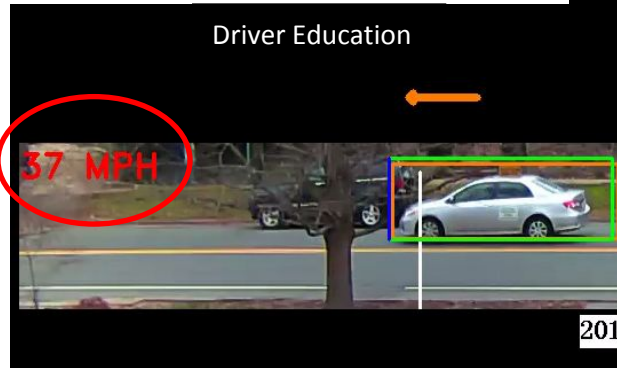
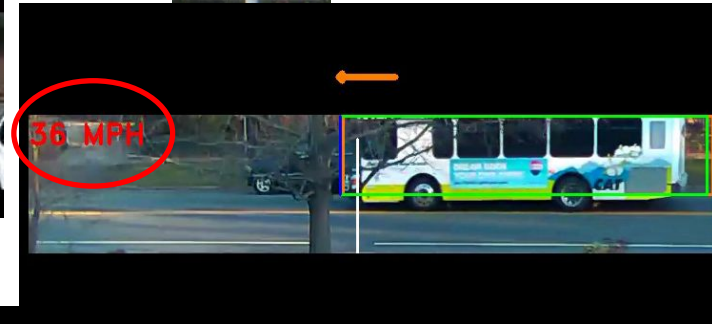


## Sampler of Local Services During Speed Trailer Days





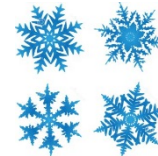
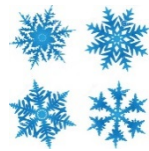
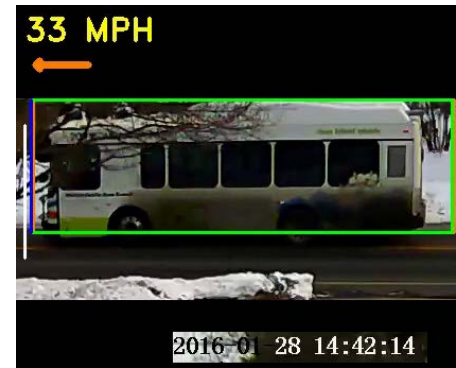
On two days during the Dec 31 – Jan 20 speed trailer experiment, a sampler of what residents of Locust Avenue saw:



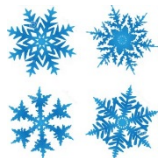




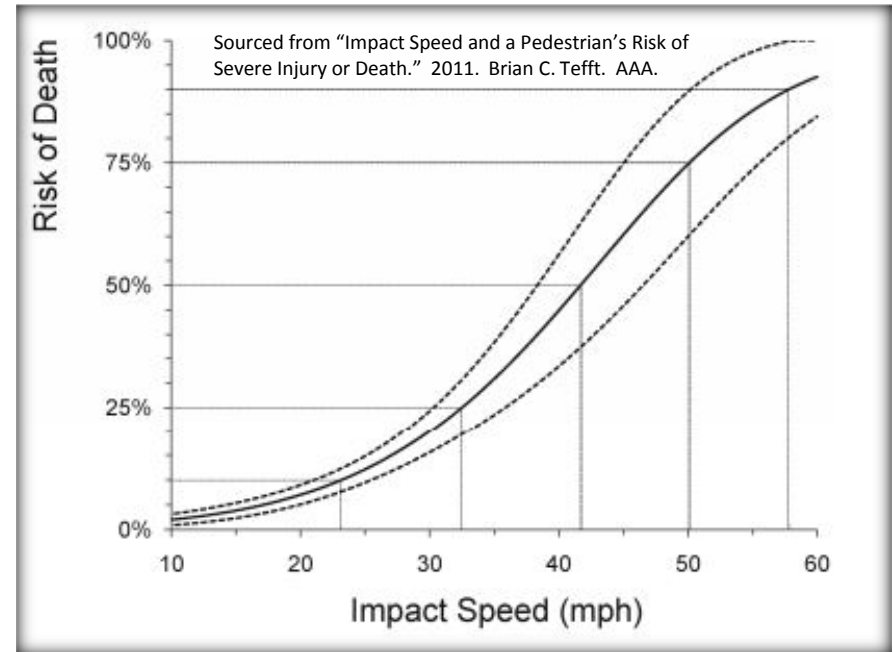
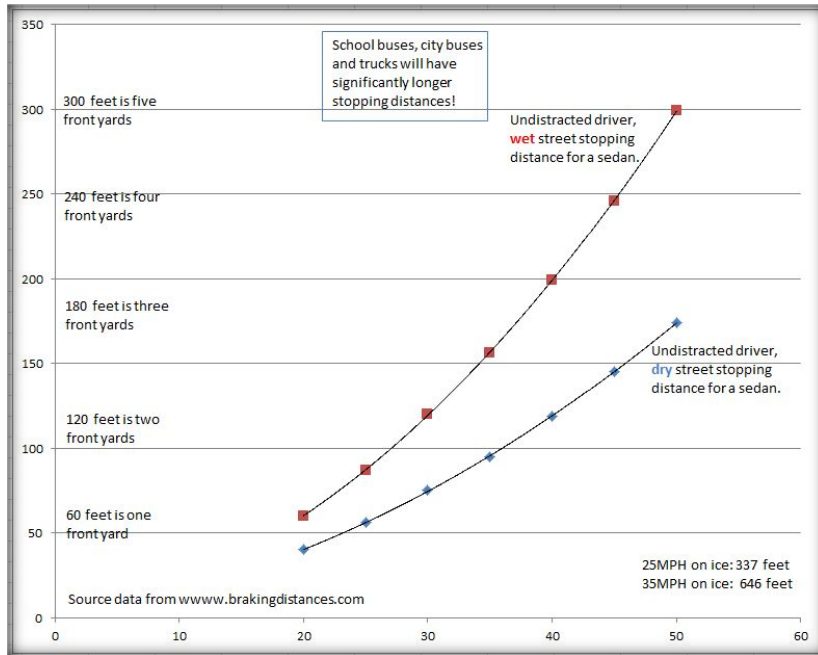
Jan 28, school's  
back in session,  
snow's still along  
the street



What's the risk?...



## General Observations



These two graphs must be taken very seriously.

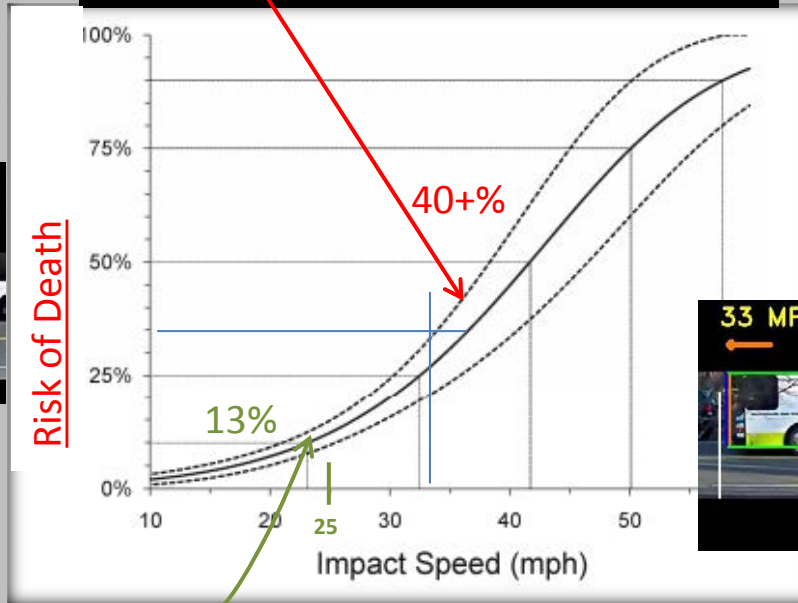
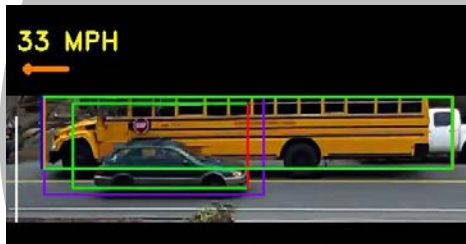
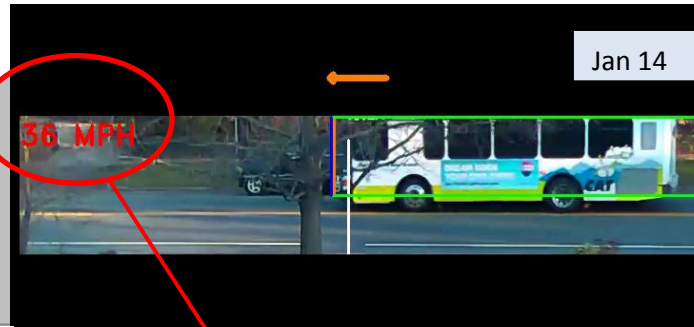
35 MPH may "only be" 40% more than 25 MPH, BUT

- Stopping distance goes up 70%, worse on wet, or icy pavement.
- Risk of death from impact more than doubles, 25MPH -> 35MPH.

Distracted driving, and there's a lot of it even in city vehicles, greatly increases stopping distances shown here, and thus, risk.

- City drivers texting have been seen wandering over center line into oncoming traffic twice since early December on Locust Avenue.
- I'll be adding images of driver activity to my data collection soon.

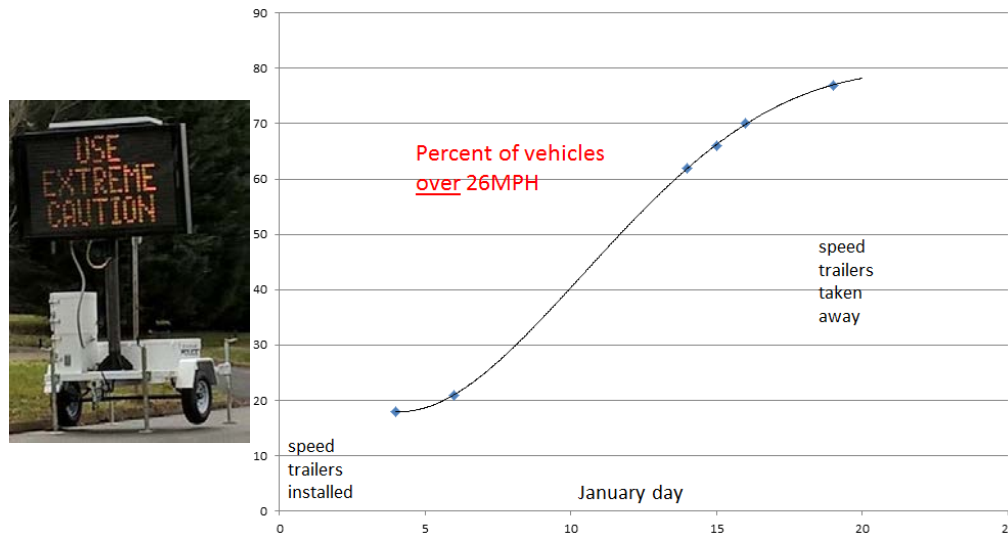
# The Risk



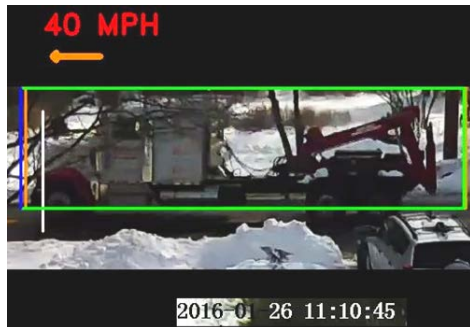
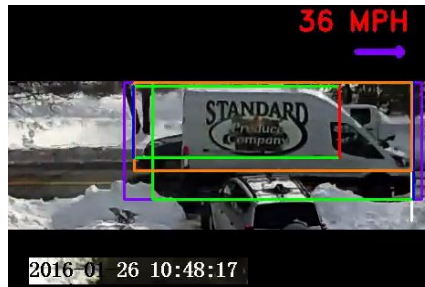
A bus going **36 MPH** has more than **3 times** the **chance** of killing someone on impact as a bus going 24 MPH. **33 MPH** -> more than **2.6 times** the **chance**.



## Two Important observations from analyzing ~28,000 vehicles Dec 2015 and January 2016



Speed trailers lost essentially all of their effectiveness in the three weeks they were on site. Under normal conditions ~85% - 90% of vehicles are speeding. Last day of speed trailer days, 78% were speeding, with top speeds back to no-trailer conditions.



Snow days created great laboratory conditions for studying seriously narrowed lanes. Sadly ~64% of vehicles continued to speed! Many large vehicles, including city buses, sped while over center line.



## A resolution for City Council to pass expeditiously, on behalf of all city neighborhoods



### Resolution:

WHEREAS speeding on Charlottesville streets remains a continuing and growing problem as the metropolitan area expands both in population and vehicle ownership, and

WHEREAS both formal and informal data analyses of vehicle traffic volumes and speeds throughout the city confirm the safety problems posed by speeding passenger vehicles and, especially, heavy commercial vehicles, and

WHEREAS city-owned vehicles have been identified as part of the problem, and potential solution.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES that the Charlottesville City Government will adopt and execute a “zero tolerance” policy for all department-owned or -operated non-emergency vehicle speeding in excess of posted limits, including appropriate awareness campaigns and employee training necessary to reduce and eliminate vehicle speeding by city-owned or –operated vehicles.

AND FURTHER RESOLVES that the Charlottesville Police Department be called upon to vigorously, and responsibly, enforce this “zero tolerance” policy.

AND FINALLY RESOLVES that the City Manager shall establish procedures to continually monitor and regularly report back to the City Council on implementation of this Resolution.