

Traffic Enforcement Information

Traffic enforcement is a major issue for any municipal police department. Complaints from residents regarding speeding vehicles and dangerous drivers are among the most common that we receive because they impact everyone in the community.

This page was created to educate and assist motorists who travel through Sturbridge. Many people have misconceptions regarding traffic law and there are some common sense rules that, if followed, will reduce your chance of being issued a traffic citation.

Speeding

From January 2003 through January 2004

Three people died on our roads due to motor vehicle accidents

Excess speed was a contributing factor in many of these tragedies

The Sturbridge Police Department is committed to doing our part to reduce the number of fatal accidents

Please help us and drive within the speed limit

Posted speed limit signs are strictly enforceable, otherwise stated, any speed over the posted speed limit is a violation under Massachusetts law



If a road is not posted the regulations fall under M.G.L. Chapter 90, section 17. Rural roads where there is not a "Thickly Settled" district have a speed limit of 40mph. Other roads, which are more residential in nature, have a 30mph speed limit, unless otherwise posted. It is important to note that this statute allows police officers to issue citations for "Unreasonable Speed Violations". For example, during a heavy snow or ice storm, 40mph on a rural road may be too fast for road or weather conditions and cause an unsafe situation.

Sturbridge Police cruisers are equipped with both moving and stationary radar as well as calibrated speedometers. Police officers in Sturbridge may also choose to utilize handheld LIDAR Unit, a laser speed-monitoring device or hand held radar units. In addition, a Massachusetts police officer can legally issue a speeding citation by estimating the speed of a vehicle in certain situations.

The following locations are monitored on a regular basis by officers using radar:

Cedar Street near Burgess Elementary
Fiske-Hill Road
Wallace Road
New Boston Road
Main Street (Route 131)
Mashapaug Road
Brookfield Road
Arnold Road

Charlton Road - (Route 20)
Whittimore Road
Willard Road
Breakneck Road
Hall Road
Stallion Hill Road

Motorists issued a civil citation for speeding face fines
set by the Massachusetts legislature

The following is an example of the formula used to determine the fine:

A motorist is traveling 53mph in a 30mph zone

1 - 10 mph over the speed limit is \$50

Every mph beyond that is \$10 per mph

In our example, 23 mph over is $\$50 + \$130 = \$180$ as a civil fine

Additionally, each speeding citation includes a mandatory \$50 surcharge
payable to the Commonwealth's Head Injury Fund

$\$180 + \$50 = \$230$

To assist us in helping reduce accidents and speed violations
we have a radar trailer that is placed in various locations throughout town.



Please contact us at 347-2525 if you would like the trailer/board
placed on your street and we will add it to our list.

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