

One of the most frequent citizen complaints to our department at neighborhood sector meetings always revolves around traffic issues and/or speeding vehicles. The popularity of these radar trailers is extremely high and occasionally we are not able to leave a trailer in one location for more than a few days, because we get other complaints or requests for the trailer. The visibility factor of the trailers is extremely cost effective when one considers that they are often deployed in areas where a patrol officer would have to be paid to sit stationary for hours for what may be a perception problem. Additionally, the trailers are basically issuing warnings to those who are actually speeding, which is what most citizens would prefer, if given the option. They also alert the police department to a problem of speeders, and give the time(s) of day or night when it is occurring so resources can be deployed at the optimum time to catch violators.

When the budget request was made for another SMART **-Speed Monitoring Awareness - Radar Trailer**, the Deer Park Police Department had one trailer that only displayed speed. We had this trailer for approximately (15) fifteen years. Along with this trailer, we had a second SMART trailer. However, in spite of having two trailers available, there was still a waiting list of citizens requesting help with speeding problems. The new SMART trailer is also able to covertly record vehicle count and speed data, but the best feature is its ability to offer proactive visibility *and* a deterrent for speeders because of its ability to flash "slow down" and red and blue lights that mimic a patrol car's.

The radar trailer is one of the best tools we have to alleviate complaints from citizens who may have a perception issue about speeders in an area. They can see first-hand what the passing traffic is doing.

In January, 2013, the Deer Park Police Department purchased, under the Crime Control District budget, and took possession of the new SMART radar trailer.

Adding another SMART radar trailer to our inventory has increased our capability to collect and objectively analyze traffic data, because of its traffic counter/speed data collection capability. The radar trailer's data collection method provides a much safer, practical, and more cost effective means to gather data as opposed to the old style traffic counters that require the laying of tubing and tape in the roadway every time data had to be collected.

The SMART radar trailer also has the capability of displaying brief messages. Lately, this radar trailer has been instrumental in raising awareness of the new school zone in the area of the newly opened San Jacinto Elementary School on E. Thirteenth that opened in January of 2013.

