

Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure?

The Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) is responsible for making sure people and goods can get around the city safely. It also maintains our city's bridges and operates traffic lights and signs.

What is the goal of the Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge?

The goal of the Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge is to encourage you to follow the speed limit, create more livable streets and neighborhoods, reduce serious injury associated with driving, and educate people about traffic laws and responsible driving behavior.

How does the Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge work?

It is simple. You will volunteer to sign the Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge and then proudly display the official Safe Driving Pledge magnet or window cling on the rear of your car. By agreeing to follow the speed limit, your car will become a "mobile speed bump" by slowing the traffic behind you without the need for physical speed bumps. Not only will you slow traffic, but you also will make drivers more aware of other road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists.

Why should I report that I signed the pledge online?

DOMI wants to make sure the Safe Driving Pledge is reaching every neighborhood in the City. Letting us know that you signed the pledge and which neighborhood you live in will also help us focus other engineering investments and safe streets policies.

Will my car really make a difference?

Yes, we only need a small percentage of drivers to pledge to slow down and obey traffic laws citywide. The more people who join, the better it works!

Will this program provoke road rage?

No, many people who sign the pledge are already acting unofficially as safe drivers. In other cities where this program has been implemented, safe drivers reported that incidents of road rage decreased when they displayed the bumper sticker on their car. The Safe Driving sticker explains to other drivers why you are driving within the legal limit, and it "legitimizes" driving slower than others who are speeding. The bumper sticker also educates other drivers and makes them aware that following the speed limit is a matter of safety and consideration for others, not timidity or cluelessness.

If for any reason you find yourself the victim of road rage (whether as a pledged safe driver or not), do not engage in or respond to any aggressive behavior. If the situation escalates, please contact Pittsburgh police.

What happens if I accidentally speed?

The Pittsburgh Safe Driving Pledge is a declaration of intent not a legally binding contract. Displaying the Safe Driving bumper sticker is simply an indication that you are trying your best to follow the rules of the road. Kicking the speed habit can be hard work. You may need to allow yourself more time to get places so you will not be tempted to speed.

How fast or slow should I go?

Speed limits are set to keep people safe but also to keep traffic moving. You are simply pledging to not go over the limit, so your commitment does not mean that you should drive too slowly. Always drive within the legal limit.

Where do pedestrians have the right of way?

Every intersection is technically an “unmarked crosswalk” that may not always be marked by lines on the street. Part of your pledge is to give pedestrians the right of way when they are in the crosswalk, whether or not it is marked or unmarked.

I don't have a car, but I want to get involved. How can I help?

Get involved by telling your friends and family about the Safe Driving Pledge and encouraging drivers you know to sign the Safe Driving Pledge. Be a good pedestrian or cyclist and obey the rules of the road. Make eye-contact with drivers when you are at a crosswalk, obey the signs, and be courteous to people who stop for you.

Do I really have to put the Safe Driving sticker on the back of my car?

Part of your pledge is to put the Safe Driving sticker on your vehicle. In other communities with similar programs, drivers reported that they really did not take the pledge seriously until the stickers were on their car. Not only does it promote safer driving from those around you, but it also reminds you that you have taken the pledge. The sticker is a visible reminder to you and everyone around you that we want our streets to be safer.

We have more than one car. Can I get multiple bumper stickers?

Yes! If there are other drivers in the house, we can give you an extra pledge form for each person to sign. Each signed pledge will receive a Safe Driving bumper sticker.

Is this program costing a lot of my tax money?

Since the Safe Driving Pledge is completely voluntary, it is not very costly to implement. The cost of printing stickers and other materials is a small fraction of the cost of one speed bump or other traffic calming installations.

What other cities have started programs similar to this?

- Atlanta, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Boise, ID
- Boston, MA
- Boulder, CO
- Columbus, OH
- Greensboro, NC
- Greenwich, CT
- Mesa and Tempe, AZ
- Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
- Missoula, MT
- Rochester, NY
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Santa Cruz, CA
- Toronto, ON