

From: [City Hall Mail](#)
To: [Michelle Nance](#)
Subject: FW: Traffic safety around Lincoln Elementary School.
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 12:50:50 PM
Attachments: [emailbanners_231eb0ed-4623-47b4-8e5d-c7d25319de5d.png](#)

From: Evan Trubee [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 12:44 PM
To: City Hall Mail <cityhall@palmdesert.gov>; Anthony Mejia <amejia@palmdesert.gov>
Subject: Fw: Traffic safety around Lincoln Elementary School.

Hello Anthony,

Can you please add these to the public comments on the Study Session item tomorrow....if there is such a thing. And if not, can you add them to the public comments on non agenda related items?

Thank you!

Evan



Evan Trubee

Mayor Pro Tempore

City of Palm Desert

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From: Jeff Brennan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Evan Trubee [REDACTED]
Subject: Traffic safety around Lincoln Elementary School.

Mr. Trubee,

I am writing you regarding traffic safety in and around the Lincoln Elementary School campus. I am a 30 year resident of Palm Desert and have spent the past 21 years as a teacher at Lincoln

Elementary. As you are aware, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School occupies the south side of Portola Avenue north of Rutledge Way and south of Magnesia Falls Drive. Palm Desert Charter Middle School sits just east of Lincoln as well.

Like other schools in the valley, Lincoln faces traffic flow challenges during the mornings and afternoons as parents drop off and pick up children. Our main parent pick up area is on the Magnesia Falls Drive side of the campus with our south lot along Rutledge serving as a school bus loading zone for students.

There are a couple traffic concerns including backed up traffic along Portola as cars wait to turn eastbound on Magnesia Falls and speeding drivers who ignore the posted school zone speed limit of 25 M.P.H. There are students who cross Portola at Magnesia Falls and the bottle neck creates a challenge for them to cross safely from the west side of Portola to the east side.

There is one narrow lane on eastbound Magnesia Falls from Portola. The installation of the CV link resulted in the median being moved further south. There is a cut out/turn pocket to enter the school lot but a car must travel through the narrow portion before reaching that point. Creating a turn lane from the southeast corner of Portola/Magnesia Falls would help alleviate some of the congestion as through traffic headed to the middle school could continue on thus improving traffic flow.

The other area of concern is the speed of traffic. This is a problem during the morning and afternoon and is mainly on Portola. Through traffic frequently moves at speeds of 40 M.P.H. or higher. It is not uncommon to observe vehicles moving upwards of 60 M.P.H. during the course of the school day. The Riverside County Sheriff's Office does patrol but not at the level of past years.

I have observed several traffic collisions by the school over the past two decades, including a traffic collision that resulted in a major injury to a Lincoln student as a car crashed through the perimeter fence.

I feel that traffic safety in this area can be improved by taking a look at roadway design, increased law enforcement, and drivers being more aware and patient.

Thank you for your attention to traffic safety around our schools.

Best Regards,

Jeff Brennan
Physical Education Teacher
Lincoln Elementary School