

EMERGENCY STREETS

Why Spokane?

Fatal crashes are preventable. Since 2021, the City of Spokane has lost **more than 100 community members** in fatal traffic crashes.

Spokane is responding with the **Emergency Streets Pilot Program.** An Emergency Street is a rapid-response traffic calming intervention deployed after a fatal traffic crash.

What Will Happen?

Traffic Calming for 14 Days at the Crash Site

Raising Awareness through Outreach and Education



Help us create safe streets.
Scan to take our
Emergency Streets Safety Survey:

CITY OF SPOKANE™

Supported with funding from Spokane Regional Health District and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission

For more information on the **Emergency Streets Pilot Program** visit the link below:

my.spokanecity.org/streets/emergencystreets

A New Approach to Safer Streets: Emergency Streets Pilot Program

When a fatal traffic crash occurs, the impact on families, neighbors, and our community is immediate and lasting. From 2021 to 2025, Spokane had more than 100 fatal crashes and more than 500 serious injury crashes. In 2025, 22 people lost their lives in traffic crashes, including 12 pedestrians. Traffic fatalities are not random, they are preventable.

This fall, Spokane is launching a pilot program designed to respond just as quickly. The **Emergency Streets Pilot Program** brings rapid, temporary traffic calming treatments to the site of a fatal crash within 48–72 hours. The goal is simple: increase awareness, reduce speeds, and make streets safer right away. Emergency Streets focuses on the critical window after fatal crashes, introducing immediate changes to the street that encourage safer driving behavior.

Following a fatal traffic crash, community members may notice temporary traffic calming treatments at Emergency Street (fatal crash) sites such as:

- Roadway modifications similar to construction sites
- Pink signs, cones, and roadway stencils
- Speed feedback signs

These installations are designed to be quick to implement and highly visible. They will remain in place for 2 weeks while City staff collect data on the crash site and Emergency Street treatment.

A Public Health Approach: The Emergency Streets concept treats traffic violence as a public health issue requiring a shift to a culture of safety and collective responsibility. Speed remains one of the most significant contributing factors. Even small reductions in speed can dramatically reduce the severity of a crash. The program recognizes that some community members, including people who walk, bike, or rely on transit, are more vulnerable to harm from traffic violence.

Community Outreach: Community engagement is a key part of the pilot. Residents near Emergency Street (fatal crash) treatments will receive notification materials that include a link to a survey. The survey will evaluate community views on the pilot program and traffic safety in Spokane. The City will also share program updates and solicit feedback through Community Assembly and the Office of Neighborhood Services, social media, community newsletters, and other outlets.

Partnerships: This pilot is made possible through collaboration across City departments and external partners including EmergencyStreets.org and the University of Colorado Boulder. The program is funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the Cooper Jones Active Transportation Safety Council, with additional support from the Spokane Regional Health District.