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## Speed limits, traffic safety discussed at Island County town hall

CAMERON MARTINEZ Stanwood Camano News  
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Commissioner Janet St. Clair speaks at the Oct. 30 Camano town hall meeting.  
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Around 20 Camano residents gathered inside the Camano Administrative Building on Oct. 30 for a town hall meeting on the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Action Plan for Island County.

The open house-style presentation was hosted by County Commissioner Janet St. Clair, Island County Public Works representatives and DKS Associates — an engineering firm based in Seattle.

"This is not a typical town hall ... where we do a presentation," St. Clair said. "This is more like our own analysis."

Upon entering the conference room, attendees were provided a sheet of circular stickers to fill out a survey to indicate their biggest concerns with road safety in Island County.

Several long tables in the center of the room featured maps of Camano and other Island County communities with sticky notes for attendees to provide road safety comments.

For people unable to attend the in-person event, the survey and an online version of the map are online at <https://dks-engage.com/IRTPO>.

One of the most prevalent issues brought to the meeting was a concern about people not driving the speed limit.

"We have traffic problems on our street," said Camano resident Milt Olson, who was unable to attend the town hall.

 Square



Still thinking about  
Square Stand?

"(There are) speeders that come through pretty fast," Olson said. "Cars are going 50 miles an hour and turning left and it could be a problem."

The presentation portion of the town hall featured an analysis of Camano's road safety problems created by DKS in collaboration with public works.

"We are committed to the goal to reduce the number of traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero by the year 2045," DKS Project Manager Veronica Sullivan said.

"We also developing something called the Comprehensive Plan," she added. "They look at land uses, look at different zoning as well, and that would align all those comprehensive plans that are being developed throughout the county."

DKS is using a mix of crash data and written feedback from Island County residents to determine the best course of action.

Some of the biggest pieces of data presented were the following:

- From 2018 to 2022, Camano Island had six fatal crashes and 19 serious injuries caused in crashes
- The top three causes of crashes according to the comprehensive plan are lane departure, young drivers (16-25) and intersection-related incidents
- The most prevalent areas shown to need improvement are Highway 532, NE Camano Drive and SE Camano Drive.
- The CSAP is being funded by Safe Streets and Roads For All, which is a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries

"Our goal is to create a CSAP to be eligible for our project grant funding and future grants," Sullivan said.

The CSAP will be finalized and approved by spring 2025.

Virtual meetings featuring the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Action Plan for Island County will take place from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 12 and Nov. 14. For more information, visit <https://dks-engage.com>.

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