Jun 13, 2022

John,

I borrowed Steve Tracy’s radar gun to sample speeds of vehicles traveling on B Street. I sat on a chair in front of my house next to the parkway strip, which allowed me to sample the speed of vehicles traveling south and north along B street—this vantage seemed appropriate because vehicles had time to accelerate and reach their cruising speed, from traffic lights at 5th or 8th streets.

The results are shown below. I sampled 525 vehicles during 3 days, two in the afternoon and one in the morning. There wasn’t much variation in the results between the days/times. On average, vehicles on this section of B street travel about 30 miles an hour, 5 miles per hour (mph) above the posted speed of 25. The median was the same as the mean, indicating that extreme values (very fast or slow speeds) did not affect the results. The maximum speed observed was 45 mph, 20 mph over the posted limit. Fifteen percent of vehicles travel at least 10 mph over the posted limit, and slightly less than three percent travel 15 mph over.

Was this sampling representative of speeds along B street, given that residents in the area have observed vehicles traveling at excessive speeds? A larger sample would be desirable, although I don’t think it would yield markedly different results, with the possible exception of the occasional vehicle traveling even faster than 45 mph. It is also possible that sampling at a different time of year might yield different results, especially since the sample here was done at the end of the school year. It is also possible that motorists moderated their speed when they saw me with the radar gun, although I didn’t observe most vehicles slowing appreciably as they approached me.

We can always repeat this study at another time of the year. At this point, the results here seem reasonably representative.

Speed Study

Sampled at 616 B street

 5/31 6/1 6/2 All Dates

 17:00-18:00 8:00-8:30 16:00-16:30

