

Question 2 Response: Laws & Law Enforcement

170 respondents mentioned this solution.

97.65% were for stronger laws and/or stricter law enforcement, 0.00% were against this solution, and 2.35% had a neutral comment.

For	Against	Neutral
Start writing tickets for drivers on their cell phones.		I'm in awe that police cannot pull a driver over due to being in the phone. I am from CT and just knowing that you can face a violation due to cell phone use has a huge impact on drivers utilizing hands free technology.
Legal consequences for driving while texting or using a cell phone.		
Ticket people for texting while driving around the lake. I was almost hit head on by two people while driving around the lake because they were texting.		
Stricter statewide testing and stiffer penalties for distracted driving incidents.		This is a public safety concern for all drivers as people are increasingly addicted to their phones while driving.
Have regular police presence there at all times.		
This is a tough one. Obviously more signage, but the problem is that some people are selfish and just don't care. Hit people where it hurts. Double the penalty for speeding and enforce it heavily. Word will spread quickly.		Unfortunately, distracted driving is an issue on every street and until the state of FL makes it illegal to text/use your phone while driving, there's not much you can do besides making the route an unattractive one for vehicles.
radar speed guns and handing out tickets		
Maybe periodic police presence with education and warning citations offered. Any chance we can create a Swan Habitat Patrol entity with some volunteer participation? Maybe with some creative uniform shirts using some of the existing Lakeland swan graphics? We could set up a store front in one of the empty venues to the south of the library in hopes to raise more awareness.		Vote for Florida to not allow cell phones while driving like in Virginia.
Maybe regulate officers and officials to do rounds in that area. People will surely pay more attention if the cops are there.		
Enforcement		
Increase enforcement.		
teach pedestrians to look left and right before crossing the street and set up speed traps until drivers get accustomed to slowing down. set the speed traps up and take a portion of the revenues from them to aid in the funding of the enhancements and education.		
Ticket them. Ticket them. Ticket them.		
Hand out speeding tickets !!		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>PSAs, tickets, signage. If drivers aren't cited, they won't care. It's just like seat belts. Maybe setup a check point with uniformed officers reminding people to keep their devices off and their eyes on the road. A conversation with a friendly uniformed LEO can go a long way to helping people be aware. Signs reminding drivers to check sidewalks for pedestrians and cyclists in both directions as well as looking for cars. For PSAs, tell a story. Put them on social media. An animated clip of a swan being hit and dying. Have the pedestrian victim share her story and her continued recovery. The signs from First Methodist are nice, too. People may think they're cheesy, but they get the message across.</p>		
<p>Have officers attend schools and provide classes for those beginning to drive. Offer a driver's education course in schools and require that the students must pass the class to obtain their license and show proof they passed the class at the DMV.</p>		
<p>Like I mentioned before the RRFB's are extremely effective. Perhaps an increased police presence for a set period of time issuing warnings/violations similar to what they do around Lake Hollingsworth around the time the college resumes classes.</p>		
<p>People already know better. Seeing the number of drivers of all ages on their phones, texting, reading, and all other means of distraction, short of a crack down be law enforcement and perhaps higher fines, not sure sure anything can be done to "educate" these drivers.</p>		
<p>Stronger fines for distracted driving.</p>		
<p>Have LPD drive by regularly several times day and night, and cite speeders.</p>		
<p>Make distracted driver awareness part of the drivers license exam and mandate it as part of the renewal process. Work with state legislators, schools, and law enforcement to finally pass a "primary offense" for unlawful distracted driving with a mobile device.</p>		
<p>More signage and more police presence</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
Write tickets for speeders and distracted drivers.		
Notices on water bills, fliers in car windows at churches, college campus, downtown areas, signage will just get ignored. Enforcement will solve the problem. Random days random times have the LPD issue tickets not warnings		
The best way to get their attention is to hit them in the pocketbook. LPD needs to patrol the area on a regular basis and ticket those that aren't abiding by the posted speed.		
Traffic warnings - a traffic Stop will wake people up		
Police presence. Cameras?		
Radar		
More police presence in the downtown area will help deter speeding, red light running and reckless driving. I think that while landscaped medians add much needed beautification and character to the downtown area. They also block open road views for drivers and add distractions.		
10-15moh with police patrol		
I think turning the road back to a Brick Road will automatically make drivers think and pay attention to what they are doing. Obviously social media, stories about swan and pedestrian accidents, and in the Electric Bills as well. I would also consider having people that cause incidents (even if they don't hit a person or a swan/duck), be fined, then assigned community service like "school-guard" crossing person, where they wear a vest and/or safety clothing with a Stop/Slow sign.		
Tickets!		
Lower the speed limit, add speed humps, include automatic radar detectors that alert drivers to their speed.		
LPD patrols and giving warnings about the lawful speed around the lake. That gets people's attention pretty quickly.		
Ticket drivers on cell phones. Post it as a no cell phone location.		
Enforcement		

For	Against	Neutral
Ticket them. Promote in many places a specific (basic) driving statute each week and ticket people for not obeying it. Then do it again. I use the proceeds to create crosswalks.		
Start hitting them in wallet to help pay for the enhancements.		
Lots of tickets at regular but "random" intervals.		
I feel as though lowering the speed and then strictly enforcing it intermittently would help get the word out that drivers around Lake Morton need to be focused.		
not likely unless the state increases the difficulty and the frequency of having to take a driving test		
Increasing penalties for phone usage while driving. A more effective course of action would be to divert traffic away from Lake Morton where the swans and other birds cause additional distractions.		
Big tickets. It's the only way idiots around here learn. Wallet pain, baby!		
It's already state law. Enforce the current laws.		
Increased law enforcement. Advertisements on Facebook, etc to explain the impacts on the swans and people in general. Tell people to stop feeding the birds next to the road to help keep them out of the road.		
Protect the lakes campaign, more police presence near the lake at high traffic times		
Ticket		
Increase fines for speeding.		
Random police presence		
Law enforcement of speeds, like 15 mph and marked/lit crossings		
Increase fines		
Require Lakeland police officers to set a good example by using turn signals. Posters in shop windows equating texting and driving to drunk driving.		
Fines		
Give warnings.		

For	Against	Neutral
Perhaps you could have a city employee who walks around the lake, engaging with locals and helping with awareness. This person could also have the authority to stop traffic if wildlife is in the roadway. If you want to get really tough, put some cops on the beat to ticket speeders/distracted drivers.		
Initial law enforcement presence		
Harsher penalties for distracted driving when involved in an accident.		
You can't educate drivers to pay more attention but you can install speed humps that enforce the desired outcome. You could also have a police presence.		
Tickets from LPD		
Law enforcement presence		
Bring back drivers education in high school as a mandatory class.		
More police presence.		
It's NOT just drivers. Start ticketing drivers AND pedestrians/runners AND cyclists that ignore or disobey traffic rules.		
Have a better police presence, signs, etc. also trim back trees or brush that blocks view when people are turning on or off Lake Morton.		
Ticketing or police presence. I work on lake Morton and have never seen police presence but have seen a lot of cars speed around the lake.		
More patrolling.		
Set up cameras and levy heavy fines of inattentive drivers.		
More signage. Police presence		
large fine and jail time for using your phone while operating your vehicle. you have to get tough, or you will never stop it, its like raising your child.		
Fine them double ,,make speed limit down to 15 mph,,like a school zone with hazard lights going off like a motion detector		
Hefty fines. Mandatory driving reeducation classes for those that get caught.		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>Stiffer penalties and via traffic enforcement may have some impact. Dedicate patrol assets to the problem area and use the funds from stiffer penalties to help pay the additional cost. I seriously doubt anyone can "fix stupid", as the inconsiderate people of this world do not respond to speed humps or other physical deterrents and rules of the road. A lot will respond to their own economic impact to their wallets. Some will not. The folks that ignore the rules are the same ones that drive dangerously in slow traffic on the interstate; weaving in and out of lanes at high rates of speed, when the majority are trying to be safe for others. They seem to believe that their self importance and needs outweigh the lives of those around them. When I was in high school we were taught how to drive responsibly...no such program now a days.</p>		
<p>Large police presence for a few weeks with citations given.</p>		
<p>I think it would be really helpful to have police officers setup regularly issuing tickets for fast drivers around the lake and explaining the importance of driving slowly and under the speed limit especially in that area. There are other parts of Lakeland that have regular "speed traps" and every time my husband and I drive through them, we check our speed and slow down to make sure we aren't going over the limit.</p>		
<p>More media attention - Heavy fines.</p>		
<p>One of the first things that you are told when you are taught to drive is PAY ATTENTION. If they don't do that on a regular basis then maybe traffic ticket campaign may get the word out FAST. I don't like the idea of staking out the lake by LPD to hand out tickets like candy but, maybe the city has reached that point. It probably won't be accepted with a warm reception but how far can the city let it go. Maybe a police presence for a few weeks will suffice.</p>		
<p>Distracted driving checkpoints. Hand out fines to drivers.</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>Tickets are the best education. Until texting and speeding are enforced, it will continue. More BIG signs might help. Breaks my heart that swans are being hit and killed.</p>		
<p>Speed bumps, street cameras, police presence, flashing signs stating what the speed is, and what the drivers speed is...</p>		
<p>I don't think education (e.g. teaching skills) is the issue, I think it's an awareness and perception issue. My guess based on my very limited perspective is that a lot of drivers are distracted by their phones; it's something I see fairly consistently when driving around town. Could we have LPD run a more strict enforcement of any laws similar to "click-it or ticket"? If we were to "teach" people anything, it might be how to enable the driving modes on their smartphones that suppress notifications; that doesn't feel intuitively "right" to me, but is worth a try. If drivers are speeding, then the ideas above could totally work; I just get the sense this is a "kitchen sink" approach that will render a result, but may not impact the problem at hand.</p>		
<p>This issue goes way beyond Lake Morton Dr, but since that is the focus of this discussion, what about flashing caution lights every eighth of a mile; increased police presence; the portable, unmanned speed display (I know speed isn't the issue, but the visual is attention grabbing).</p>		
<p>all of the things i stated above. the lake needs flashing lights and speed bumps or human being's directing traffic.</p>		
<p>Public safety campaign, more signage around Lake Morton, more of an LPD crackdown on distracted driving tickets over an extended period of time.</p>		
<p>Police presence</p>		
<p>more police monitoring</p>		
<p>Fine anyone who throws bread from their car (happens a lot, and attracts birds to the street). Put the radar speed things up quarterly. Reduce speed limit to 20 instead of 25 and write tickets.</p>		
<p>Police</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>Add some LPD enforcement on a weekly basis; this has clearly made a difference in speeders on S FL Ave in Dixieland even though drivers know where the traffic cops wait. Launch an awareness campaign that promotes this as ped friendly lake for wildlife and people, so NO TEXTING / DISTRACTED DRIVING on Lk Morton Dr (e.g., do a PSA at the Cobb Theater, do same via social media; maybe hold an art contest with school kids on why safety on this lake matters and put winning on exhibit at city hall and copy outside where people wait in line like coffee shops or bakeries or bars...and e mail it to every FSC student residing along the lake, all the Neigh. Associations nearby etc.)</p>		
<p>Put more law enforcement in the area monitoring drivers speeding, driving erratically, and using cell phones.</p>		
<p>More police officers with a mission of traffic enforcement would do a lot to improve traffic safety and overall neighborhood safety. In our neighborhood (Dixieland), we never see the Lakeland PD unless they are driving through to another neighborhood. My wife and I rarely feel safe walking through the neighborhood because of drivers who ignore both speed limits and stop signs. As long as drivers know there are no consequences for their actions, they have no reason to drive safely. Increased interaction between law enforcement and the public is also a way to educate drivers one-on-one about the importance of safe driving. From a cost and time standpoint, writing several speeding tickets seems more efficient than investigating a motor vehicle crash or fatality.</p>		
<p>I always see people texting and driving. Somehow we must educate people not to text and drive and have law enforcement back that up.</p>		
<p>I believe proper behavior regarding these situations should be taught throughout early school years, then followed up with driver's education and testing for licenses.</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>Unfortunately unless something directly impacts a person it is hard to get them to change. This is why I think people should be ticketed - financial impact has a better chance of correcting the bad behavior, especially if people start to see the area as a ticket "trap"</p>		
<p>Have police hand out tickets for not stopping at stop signs, texting, and/or speeding. Add cameras that do the same thing.</p>		
<p>More Police presence during morning and evening rush hours. Not so much to ticket as to just be visible. Also a note not related to traffic but related to the lake and water fowl. Dogs should NOT be permitted to be walked between the lake and Lake Morton Drive. The dogs disturb and put stress on the swans. Also some owners don't pick up their feces. There is a sidewalk for walking dogs. BTW I own 3 dogs. PS- I live on Mississippi Ave., half a block from Lake Morton and visit the lake several times a day.</p>		
<p>Tickets! Delay their drive and money out of their pockets would be a good place to start!</p>		
<p>Make holding a device while driving against the law, and enforce it</p>		
<p>Add an expensive fine if you hit a swan. People will definitely slow down then.</p>		
<p>1) Have police do road stops & pass out info on dangers of text/drive around lake. 2) Put out flashing sign "Don't text/drive."</p>		
<p>Consequences....Have LPD ticket for speeding or incomplete stops for a period of 30 days and have some type of camera to see what is actually happening around Lake Morton.</p>		
<p>Educating them at all is a start. Attractive signage, one way, anticlockwise, and enforcement. GIVE TICKETS. This is largely a problem with student drivers from FSC. That is a fact. And we all know you say there is no brick. There is brick. Go back to brick. Worked very well on Nevada, off Hollingsworth.</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
Start handing out traffic citations!!!		
Motorcycle patrols during peak traffic times		
More traffic enforcement with radar speed sign.		
The correct attention is being focused on driver distractions, as if just looking at the waterfowl isn't distracting enough. I'd be interested to know the time of day the incidents happen, to better target driver habits. Of course, a much greater presence in traffic enforcement by the LPD would work immediate wonders.		
Make distracted driving a first offense violation and actually start ticketing drivers.		
A police presence & ticketing		
Cameras and police		
Run radar! WRITE speeding tickets. People fly around the lake.		
Have police in force for a few weeks during those peak hours and actually hand out some tickets for distracted driving. That may help change some habits.		
Enforcement of current laws. Traffic enforcement doesn't exist anywhere in the city.		
Increased penalties for distracted driving.		
Make texting and driving a primary offense and enforce it.		
Use warning signs...and educate your officers how to actually do their jobs		
maybe a "Swan Accidents this year" tracker... you see that sometimes on highways. Also Financial Penalties doubled for speeding?		
Police need the power to be able to stop people to using their phone while driving. Then you can educate them as you give them a ticket or a warning. Change the state law.		
Start ticketing drivers who are texting or talking on their phone without a hands-free device.		

For	Against	Neutral
<p>They will pay attention to speed bumps when they feel it on their suspension systems or police officer speed traps in their wallets. I don't want our community to be like Tampa's Bayshore Blvd where people fly through there all the time. Like Lake Hollingsworth people walk around Lake Morton for fitness reasons because it's a beautiful place. Let's keep it safe for ourselves and the animals.</p>		
<p>I don't think education works, drivers already know what they're doing wrong, they just choose to do it. Need to treat them like small children, make them realize there are consequences to their choices. Write more tickets!!</p>		
<p>Ticket them!!!! Cannot teach people to think.....or be courteous to others. For out -of-town people, a "designated swan area" sign might be a good idea.</p>		
<p>I don't think that education is the problem: everyone knows that distracted driving is a problem, but they still don't put down their phones. Having increased police presence from time to time might help - especially during peak hours - and maybe some public shaming if we can determine someone's cell phone status at the time they're involved in an accident.</p>		
<p>I know that when I see cars speeding down my street, it's young adults. Police need to start handing out more tickets.</p>		
<p>Pedestrian crosswalks with flashing lights, security cameras, law enforcement giving tickets.</p>		
<p>Enforce the parking signs and rules and increase officer presence. I walk lake every day and the cars were definitely slower when the electronic speed limit warning sign was in place. Also, ask FSC to include an education session at the beginning of the school year. Starting the Saturday before school (Move-In Day) you could tell many of the drivers around the lake were not familiar with the roads, the speed limit, the swans, the ducks, the walkers, the joggers, etc. Thank you for working to fix this!</p>		

For	Against	Neutral
Ticket those not paying attn. Set up traps. I'm fine with it.		
Ticket them. Make it painful.		
Through flashing beacons, stricter punishments or the area being patrolled		
Tickets.		
More police presence and ticketing.		
Write a lot more tickets. Lakeland should be known for zero-tolerance. If we don't enforce the law, people will just ignore the law.		
That's tricky because they probably already have this bad, deadly habit. Maybe more police setting speed traps (even though I know that isn't the main issue).		
Educate? That's not the problem. It's inconsiderate people that are the problem. Hit them in the wallet.		
Lots and lots of signs. Plus additional police presence which may result in people refraining from cell phone use or whatever is causing their distraction.		
Cell phones are the biggest issue for distraction. put up cameras and ticket those with a cell phone in their hands		
Implement a harse penalty for drivers using their cellphones while under control of a motor vehicle.		
Traffic calming zones and Enforcement enforcement and reduction in speed limits. Current Speed limits are not enforced. it would be a victory for Lakeland if we could be considered pedestrian friendly both in Morton and Hollingsworth but the city refuses to take a serious look at making material and meaningful changes to these areas. These areas should be redesigned and traffic calming zones are key. The department though granting these refuses to allow it for various reasons. This issue of traffic calming is one That is a city wide request and concern of its citizens. Perhaps someone at the city can research the effective alternatives successfully implemented elsewhere ?		

For	Against	Neutral
photo radar for speeding		
Flashing lights, more speed bumps and more tickets being issued.		
Signs and traffic enforcement would be the only ways. I spend most sunday mornings with my family at the lake, motorists are always speeding, not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk, or parking in bad areas.		
Perhaps have more Lakeland Police cars visible and patrolling around the area. In all the years I've been in Lakeland, on the occasions that I visit the lake area, people are driving way faster than the posted speed limits. I don't recall seeing anyone ever pulled over for driving too fast around the lake. Enforce the speed limits, and put a big fine on people, to be used to preserve and protect the swans, storks, geese and other wildlife in the area.		
when i was a young man, the LPD actually walked the areas downtown.. maybe a bicycle or walking squad is required for visibilty		
Do a traffic stop in the area for a few days with police officers and hand all drivers a flyer and a postcard sized paper that explains the issue on one side and it a pledge card on the other side. Have them sign a pledge card to be aware of swans and people in the area. You take back the postcard - they keep the flyer. Get a business to co-sponsor this and give out a coupon for free sandwich, free movie, free \$10 of groceries, free coffee, free donuts, or something if they sign the pledge. I'm sure a lot of businesses are upset about this too and would be willing to help. Also give each driver a back window sticker / bumper sticker to put on their car and have the officer place it on before they leave the stop (if they sign the pledge). Send a thank you postcard and reminder of their pledge to their house, email, etc. Also, make an e-copy of the pledge available and share on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Get it out there on social media.		

For	Against	Neutral
Signs and commercials, perhaps increase police presents around lake. Might help to see someone pulled over from time to time. I never see police around this leak. I live at 806 Johnson Ave.		
Enforce existing laws regarding texting and driving.		
Increase police patrol to prevent distracted drivers and speeders.		
Perhaps add flashing SWAN/DUCK CROSSING signs. Have police do weekly speed traps.		
Ticket them for using cell phones while driving is a great starter. It has been shown that most people will only change their behavior if there is an actual consequence.		
More LPD enforcement.		
fine drivers who are causing the problems. When something affects the wallet, it gets everyone's attention. Repeated offenders should be arrested.		
Flashing lights, speed bumps, setting up a few speed traps off and on etc.		
After they pay a fine or two they will take notice and obey or know they have to pay. This is only on one small section of the lake. I know many more have been killed near Crystal Lake. Speed bumps are annoying but if they save lives it is so worth it. Please post LPD officers more often to write tickets. Have officers at various times of the day and night, random times. Word will get out.		
Provide Law Enforcement / Safety Officers on a regular basis, and conduct a safety vehicle checkpoint. Make distracted driving a primary offense.		
Make it a law to stay off the phone while driving.		
PSAs on all the available media. Possibly a mailing to Lakeland Residents with their Electric Bill. Parks Staff being on site to educate on a certain day and time. Police are probably best the deterrents of bad behavior.		

For	Against	Neutral	
Give tickets for texting and driving.			
Free at City events like First Friday, utilize local businesses and/or Chamber of Commerce. It may be beneficial for LPD to do some education by increasing awareness of the laws by increasing patrols and becoming more aggressive with citations.			
Using unmarked cars, ticket a few dozen a day for a couple of weeks. Then at least once a month for a year.			
Give them tickets ... and lots of them. The only way to "educate" anyone these days is to hit them where it hurts, in the wallet.			
Police to monitor the lake and help the drivers to pay attention			
Ban cell phone use in the car. Have more police visible around Lake Morton.			
more fencing for swans; arresting people that go over the speed limit. (have a traffic officer there daily to give out tickets and let it be known they are watching)			
Ticket them for speeding and distracted driving.			
Have public safety officers frequent the area. Hand out literature. Make cell phone use and texting while driving illegal, like some other states do!			
Taze everyone who speeds and is distracted.			
I think speed humps or just plain bumps would get their attention. It maybe excessive but it calls for drastic measures. And post a police officer their. The wildlife cannot protect themselves so it is the cities responsibility to do so. If it's a little drastic so be it.			
Ticket speeders and people on their phones. While on phones concentration is off.			
Sub Total	For = 166	Against = 0	Neutral = 4
Grand Total	170		