"The purpose of this innovative program is twofold. To improve the safety of our pedestrians, especially near our schools, and to help us better utilize our limited policing resources. Thus far, we have seen a positive impact since installing the radar speed signs," states Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

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The City of Rochester Hills has installed Radar Speed Displays at 13 locations in established school speed zones. The speed displays enhance driver awareness, prompting them to slow down when children are present and where safety is most critical.

These solar powered display units reduce operating costs and operate daily from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. During school arrival and dismissal times, speed limits in the speed zones are reduced for safety reasons. The display flashes if a vehicle is traveling 1 mile per hour above the normal speed limit or reduced school speed limit. A strobe light flashes if a vehicle is traveling 6 miles per hour over the normal speed limit or reduced school speed limit.

The grant was funded by a $305,000 grant from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) from the U.S. Department of Justice through the efforts of the City of Rochester Hills and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office Rochester Hills Substation.

COPS Grants help community policing keep America safe. Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

The project was a turn-key project which includes pre and post-engineering studies, procurement and installations of equipment and an evaluation as to the effectiveness of the displays on speed compliance and enhanced safety.

The 13 Radar Speed Displays were installed in speed zones in the Avondale and Rochester Community School Districts for elementary and middle schools. Many of these schools are located on roads with speed limits of up to 50 mph so compliance with the reduced school speed limits is a concern. Speed sign locations include:

Avondale Upper Middle School
Brewster Elementary School
Brooklands Elementary School
Deerfield Elementary School
Hamlin Elementary School
Hampton Elementary School
Hart Middle School/Sheldon Road
Hart Middle School/Clear Creek Drive
Holy Family Regional School
Musson Elementary School
Reuther Middle School
Van Hoosen Middle School
West Middle School