

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV. C.

From: Wayne D. Houle, PE, Director of Engineering

Action

Discussion

Date: December 18, 2012

Information

Subject: Traffic Safety Report Of September 5, 2012

Action Requested:

Review and approve the revised Traffic Safety Committee Report of September 5, 2012.

Information / Background:

Staff inadvertently missed submitting this report to the City Council for approval.

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the September 5, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their September 20 meeting and made the following comments:

Item B2: Add a suggestion that property owner add a way finding sign to direct traffic to back parking lot.

Attachments:

Revised Traffic Safety Committee Report of September 5, 2012
Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2012

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

(Revised September 20, 2012)

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

The Committee review of traffic safety matters occurred on September 5, 2012. The Director of Engineering, Public Works Street Supervisor, Police Traffic Supervisor, and Traffic Safety Coordinator were in attendance for this meeting. The Director of Community Development also reviewed the traffic safety committee report prior to finalizing.

From these reviews, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and the staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were also informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the September 20, 2012, Edina Transportation Commission and then the October 2, 2012 City Council Agenda.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval of request:

1. Request for additional signs near 70th Street West and Metro Boulevard.

This request is from a resident who lives on 70th Street West. The resident states that vehicles travelling on 70th Street West miss the change and would continue to travel on Metro Boulevard. The suggested solution is to place a sign indicating more clearly that 70th Street West continues to the west from the intersection.

Currently there is one sign at the intersection indicating that 70th Street West changes directions at the intersection of Metro Boulevard. The requestor would like a larger sign that would explicitly show the direction change.

70th Street West and Metro Boulevard are classified as a Collector Roadways under the jurisdiction of the City.



PHOTO 1: 70th Street looking south



PHOTO 2: 70th Street West looking south.

After discussion, staff recommends that the placement of an additional sign would make it more noticeable for drivers. Placement on the mast arm of the signal light would be the most visible location.

Staff recommends approval of adding a sign indicating the change of direction for 70th Street West.

SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial of request:

1. Request for parking restrictions on Sunnyside Road between Arden Avenue and Bruce Avenue.

The requestor lives on Bruce Avenue. The requestor has a driveway that opens onto Sunnyside Avenue. The requestor has stated that parking on the north side of Sunnyside is causing a problem with traffic and backing out of their driveway. Requestor would like parking to be restricted from Arden Avenue to Bruce Avenue to allow better safety for drivers. Resident has reported near misses and small collisions with vehicles in the area, but was not reported.

Sunnyside Avenue is classified as a local city street. There are a total of 2 recorded accidents from 2001 to 2010 in the area. The last recorded accident was in 2007.

The area was monitored for frequency of parking, and the potential hazard parking would create. Photos are provided below.

After discussion, it is recommended to not place parking restrictions. Staff feels the area is wide enough for travel with parking allowed on one side of the street. Also the amount of traffic parking on the north side is minimal and not very frequent.

Staff recommends denial of request for parking restrictions.



PHOTO 3: Sunnyside looking eastbound.



PHOTO 4: Sunnyside looking westbound.

2. Request for a sign indicating to vehicles to not block an intersection at the intersection of Parklawn Avenue and France Avenue.

This request is from a resident who travels Parklawn Avenue frequently. The requestor states that traffic going eastbound blocks the entrance into businesses on the south side of the intersection (see photo). Vehicles going westbound and wanting to turn into these businesses will stop on Parklawn Avenue and block westbound traffic.

Parklawn Avenue is classified as a local street. There were a total of 3 accidents on Parklawn near the intersection of France Avenue from 2001 to 2010.

The entrance to the south of the intersection is considered a non-confirming intersection. Enforcement of the intersection cannot be done because non-confirming intersections are exempt from state statute. After discussion, it is recommended that vehicles can enter the business from another entrance.

Staff will contact property owner to recommend that they install a way finding sign to the back parking lot. Staff recommends denial of request for “Do Not Block Intersection” signs.



PHOTO 5: France Avenue and Parklawn Avenue Intersection



PHOTO 6: Parklawn Avenue, looking westbound.

SECTION C:

Requests that are deferred to a later date or referred to others.

1. Request for an All-Way stop sign at the intersection of York Avenue and Edinborough Way.

Requestor has asked for this intersection to be looked at. Requestor states that traffic on Edinborough Way has a difficult time entering traffic onto York Avenue. Requestor also states that the intersection is hazardous when entering it. Resident would like this to be addressed as well.

The policy for an All-Way stop sign requires at least 300 vehicles per hour entering the intersection for at least eight hours. Special consideration can be used for areas high in crashes that could be prevented with an All-Way stop sign.

York Avenue is classified as a “B” Minor Arterial. Edinborough Way is classified as a Collector road. There have been a total of 14 accidents recorded from 2001 to 2010; 12 of the accidents were only property damage (no injury). Currently the adjacent Xerxes Avenue bridge over I494 is being constructed. Staff will be meeting within the

next month with the cities of Bloomington and Richfield, Hennepin County, and Minnesota Department of Transportation to discuss moving the all-way stop from the south side of the bridge to this location.



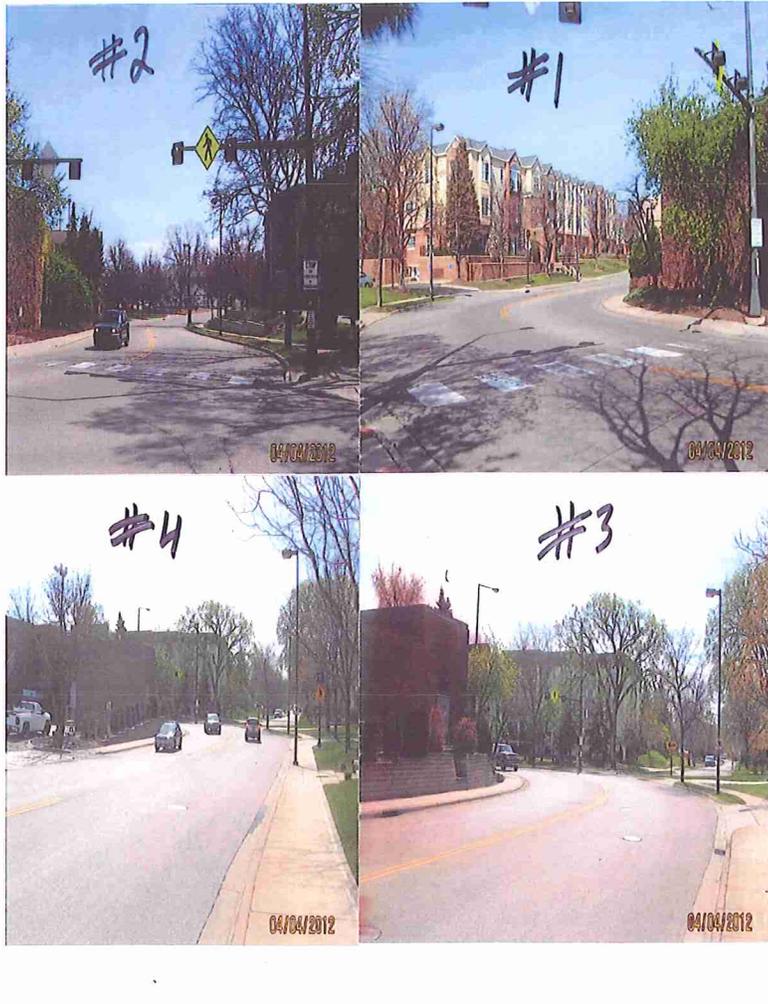
PHOTO 7: Edinborough Way, looking eastbound.



PHOTO 8: Edinborough Way, looking westbound.

2. Request for additional signs and lighting for the pedestrian signals at the intersection of 51st Street West and Halifax Avenue.

The requestor lives near the intersection of 51st Street West and Halifax Avenue. Requestor feels that the sightlines of the intersection and the height of the lights are not adequate. After discussion, requestor would like additional flashing lights lower on the posts of the pedestrian lights (See Photo).





51st Street West is classified as a Collector Roadway with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 6678 vehicles and an 85th percentile speed of 28.2 MPH. There has only been one recorded crash involving a pedestrian (2007, Possible Injury) and a total of six accidents from 2001 to 2010.

This request will remain open while more research is conducted on the viability and effectiveness of placing additional lights.

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety issues handled.

1. Request for the clear zone to be looked at near the intersection of Westridge Boulevard and Valley View Road. Requestor feels that the vegetation is blocking the sight lines at the intersection. Request was forwarded to EPD for enforcement.
2. Request for the clear zone to be looked at near the intersection of Lantana Lane and Trillium Avenue. Requestor feels that the intersection should be cleared of vegetation. Request was forwarded to EPD for enforcement.
3. Request for the intersection of Minnesota Drive and France Avenue to be looked at. Requestor states that traffic backs up into this intersection and will block traffic from crossing when the signal changes. After

investigating the area, the request was forwarded to EPD for enforcement. Minnesota State Statute 169.15 Subd. 2 states that vehicles cannot block an intersection.

4. Call from a resident concerned with speeding vehicles on Valley View Road west of Gleason Road. A traffic counter was placed, still awaiting results. Results will be forwarded to EPD.
5. Call from a resident with concerns with speed on 70th Street West west of Metro Boulevard. A traffic counter was placed to monitor speeds. Results will be forwarded to EPD.
6. Call from a resident requesting information about the parking restrictions that were recently placed on 53rd Street West and Vernon Avenue South. Resident was advised of the time that the new restrictions were placed.
7. Call from resident asking about parking restrictions on Xerxes Avenue north of TH 62. Resident was advised that parking is allowed on the street.
8. Call from a resident asking about stop signs on 51st Street West and Ewing Avenue. This is a street in Minneapolis. Resident was forwarded to Minneapolis.
9. Call from a resident requesting information about the construction on Tracy Avenue. Resident lives near the street and was inquiring about the current schedule of the project. Resident was advised of the progress of the project.
10. Call from a resident with a traffic concern in the area of France and 65th Street West. Left voicemail with resident; resident did not call back.
11. Call from a resident asking about traffic volumes in Edina. Left Voicemail with resident; resident did not call back.
12. Call from a resident asking about increased construction traffic in the area of Blake Road and Interlachen Boulevard. Resident was advised..
13. Call from a resident requesting information about the new crosswalks placed in the Creek Valley Schools area. Resident was advised about the new duratherm crosswalks.
14. Staff also looked at the traffic volumes and speeds in the area of 70th Street West. Counters were placed in the area and the results were shown along with previous volumes and speeds. Below is a summary of traffic on these roadways:

70th Street West (west end) – Volume and speed reduction
70th Street West (east end) – Volume and speed reduction
66th Street West – Volume increase and speed reduction
Normandale Road – Speed increase
West Shore Drive – Volume and speed reduction
Cornelia Drive – Volume and speed reduction

A detailed report is attached. Staff will also be counting vehicles this fall and will share this data in November.

MINUTES OF
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY ROOM
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012
6:00 P.M.

ROLLCALL Answering roll call was Members Bass, Braden, Franzen, Iyer, Janovy, LaForce, Nelson, Schweiger, Sierks and Thompson.

New student member Caroline Sierks was welcomed to the ETC.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was amended by member Bass to reschedule the do.town update for next month's meeting. **Motion was made by member Janovy and seconded by member Iyer approving the amended agenda. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2012

The minutes was amended as follows: page 2, 4th paragraph, delete "Sgt. Olson said she supports the Police Department's position that it is a good ordinance regardless of whether it is legal to do so;" page 4, 3rd paragraph, delete "City Council" and replace with "State Legislature;" 4th paragraph, add "North" before "St. Paul." **Motion was made by member Franzen and seconded by member LaForce to approve the amended August 16 minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

COMMUNITY COMMENT - None.

REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

do.town Update

Rescheduled for next meeting.

Sidewalk Ordinance Discussion

Chair Nelson said the discussion was a continuation from last meeting. **Member Janovy made the following motion and it was seconded by member Laforce:**

1. Forward the BETF memo and recommendation as background information.
2. Recommend that the City Council update Ordinance 1400.07, Subd. 3 by inserting the word "motor" before "vehicle" so that it reads: "No motor vehicle shall be parked or driven on or along a sidewalk."
3. Recommend that the City Council update Ordinance 1230.03G by inserting the word "motor" before vehicle so that it reads: "...no person shall in any park or publicly owned property: Drive or park a motor vehicle on any area not designated for parking or travel."
4. Recommend that the City Council eliminate Ordinance 1425 – Bicycle Registration.

Member Janovy said for City Council's discussion, they would have the BETF memo and the ETC minutes for background and adding "motor" before "vehicle" is the simplest change because activities like skateboarding or inline skating would probably qualify as vehicles. She said it is more than bikes that are impacted by the code and this would change it to the

intended purpose of restricting motor vehicles. She was asked about motorized scooters and wheelchairs and she said they are considered pedestrians if being used as a substitute for walking.

Member Iyer asked if they are going against the police's recommendation and member Janovy said yes. He said he agreed with eliminating the bike registration but wondered why they were going against the police. He said he would give discretion of enforcement in the same way that discretion is given to the engineering staff. Member Janovy said the police are not enforcing the ordinance and residents are confused about the ordinance based on emails that the City Council has received. She said also that the change would bring Edina in line with surrounding communities. Chair Nelson also agreed with eliminating the bike registration and leaving everything else as is since there are no real issues. Member Janovy said parking bikes on sidewalk is currently not allowed and chair Nelson said this could be treated as an exception. Member Bass said they should support actual behavior and not dissidence. Members Thompson and Franzen also agreed with the motion. After discussion, the following vote was taken:

Ayes: Bass, Braden, Franzen, Janovy, LaForce, Schweiger, Sierks, Thompson

Nays: Iyer, Nelson

Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) Report of September 5, 2012

Chair Nelson thanked staff for including photos in the report because they are very helpful in understanding the story.

Section B.1. Member Janovy asked if the request was for no parking between Bruce & Casco Avenues. Director Houle said the request was specific to the resident's address.

Member Janovy said the 85th percentile speed data is useful but asked if they could also get the number of vehicles travelling over 25 mph and Director Houle said yes. Member LaForce asked how to interpret the 85th percentile data. Director Houle explained that the industry standard is to look at the speed that 85% of drivers are travelling and member Thompson added that they look at all the recorded speeds and *the 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85% of drivers are traveling at or under.* He said the speed limit is set based on driver behavior and people drive based on their comfort level. Director Houle will explain how the 85th percentile speed process works at the next meeting.

Section B.2. Member Thompson suggested a way finding sign to the back parking lot.

Section D - Director Houle explained that section D is there to show other issues that staff assists residents with.

Section D. 1. Member LaForce asked if the City proactively monitors overgrown vegetation and Director Houle said staff is encouraged to report clear view issues. He said the police enforce clear view and they are generally successful in getting residents to comply when complaints are received. Member Janovy noted that there is new landscaping at Concord & Oak with arborvitaes that are small now but will present a clear view issue when fully grown because of how close they are planted to the street. Director Houle said he will forward this to the police. Member Franzen said he received a letter from the City recently about trimming his trees.

Section D. 12. It was noted that it would be informative to know what advisory was given to the resident.

Section D. 13. It was noted that it was good to see the new crosswalk being noticed. Director Houle said the media has been calling him about the new style because of crosswalk incidences. Member Bass said she has noticed more kids using the sidewalk and crosswalk.

Motion made by member Janovy and seconded by member Thompson to approve the September 5 TSC report. All voted aye. Motion carried.