

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV. F.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

Action

Discussion

Date: December 17, 2013

Information

Subject: Traffic Safety Report, November 6, 2013

Action Requested:

Review and approve the Traffic Safety Committee Report of November 6, 2013.

Information / Background:

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the November 6, 2013, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their November 21 meeting and moved to forward the report to the City Council for approval, see attached draft minutes.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Committee Report of November 6, 2013
Draft ETC Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2013

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

The Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) review of traffic safety matters occurred on November 6. The Director of Engineering, Public Works Director, Transportation Planner, Police Traffic Supervisor and Sign Coordinator were in attendance for this meeting.

From these reviews, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the November 21 Edina Transportation Commission and the December 17 City Council agenda.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval:

A1. Request for traffic control or a painted crosswalk at the intersection of Creek Valley Road and Nordic Circle.

This request is from a resident who lives at the intersection. The requestor states that there is a high concentration of children during soccer games who are in danger due to the uncontrolled intersection. Requestor stated that vehicles travel through the intersection too fast and there is confusion of right-of-way.

A request to look into these issues at this location was made in March of 2012. Since the street was being reconstructed at the time, it was decided to delay action until construction was completed.



Map: Creek Valley Road & Nordic Circle

There is no relevant history of traffic requests in this area. There are no reported crashes at this intersection. A map and photos are provided below.

The criterion for placement of crosswalks and type of control is outlined within the City of Edina Local Traffic Control list. It states:

Marked Pedestrian Crosswalk

- *Marked crosswalks are placed at locations that are unusually hazardous or at locations not readily apparent as having pedestrian movement.*
- *Marked crosswalks will only be placed in an area that has in excess of 20 pedestrians crossing for a minimum of two hours during any eight hour period.*
- *Marking for crosswalks will be established by measuring the "Vehicle Gap Time". This is the total number of gaps between vehicular traffic recorded during the average five minute period in the peak hour. Criteria for markings are:*
 - *More than five gaps – pavement marking and signage only.*
 - *Four to five gaps – add activated pedestal mounted flasher.*
 - *Less than three gaps – add activated overhead mounted flasher*

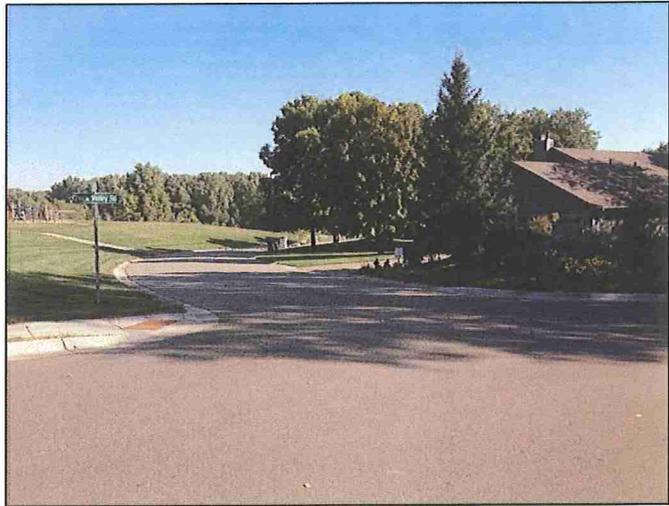


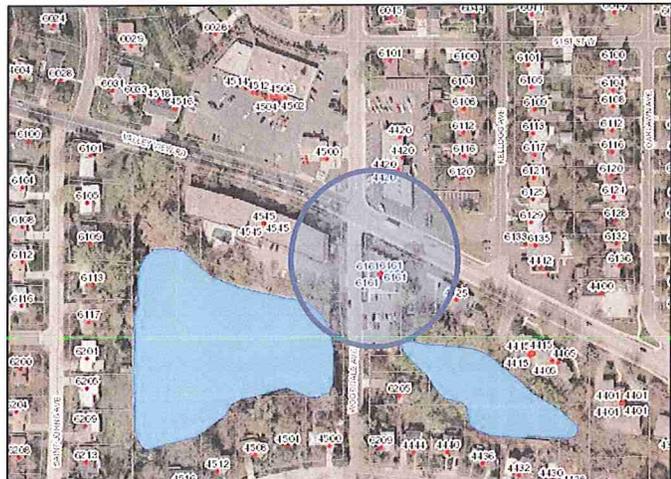
Photo: Creek Valley Road and Nordic Circle Looking northeast

Counts of pedestrians were taken at the intersection. A maximum total of 34 were recorded walking through the north (Nordic Circle) leg of the intersection within a two-hour period. 33 gaps (a "gap" is defined as time between vehicles that allows a pedestrian to safely cross the street) were counted in the average five-minute period during the peak hour of 4:15-5:15pm. This is far above the five-gap threshold for activated mounted flashers.

Staff recommends approval of a pedestrian crosswalk, pending discussion with homeowner about a concrete safe haven being located on the NE corner of the intersection.

A2. Request to move Bike Route sign at Valley View Road and Wooddale Avenue in order to clear sightlines to monument sign.

This request comes from an employee of a business located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Valley View Road and Wooddale Avenue. Requestor states that the small Bike Route sign impedes sightlines to the business' monument signage.



Map: Valley View Road and Wooddale Avenue

Requestor would like the sign moved “a few feet” north to clear views to the sign from both the west and north.

Staff recommends approval to move bike route sign northeast, pending the location of utilities.



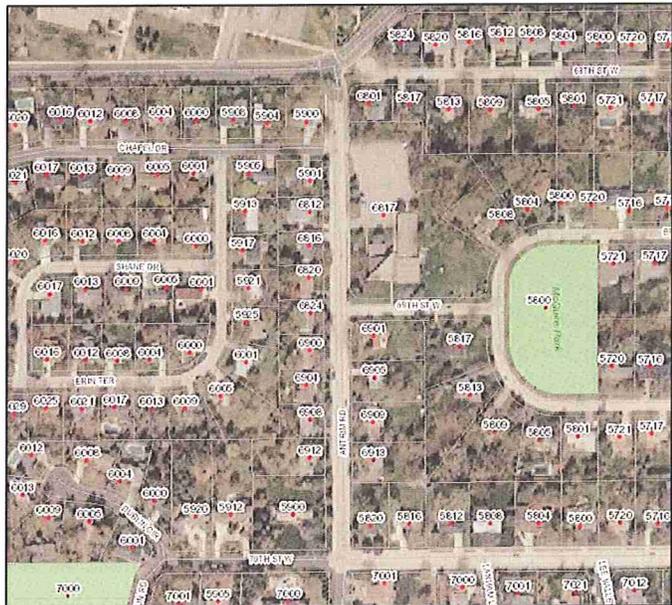
Photo: Southeast corner of Valley View Road and Wooddale Avenue looking southeast

SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial:

B1. Request to remove parking restrictions on the east side of Antrim Road, south of W 69th Street.

This request comes from a resident who lives on the 6900 block of Antrim Road. Requestor states that it is inconvenient – and a safety issue – that no parking is allowed on his (east) side of the street. No parking was installed when the bike lanes were striped in 2012. Parking is allowed on the west side of Antrim Rd. Requestor also believes that heavy “18-wheeler” trucks are using Antrim and that this should be prohibited. A map and picture are provided above and below.



Map: 6900 block of Antrim Road

In 2012 council directed staff to install more bike lanes according to the comprehensive plan. The existing road width cannot accommodate two lanes of traffic, two bike lanes, and parking on both sides of the street.

After discussion, staff recommends denying the request for removal of parking restrictions.

SECTION C:

Requests that are deferred to a later date:

C1. Request for a crosswalk and “pork chop” island at Wilson Road and Eden Avenue.

The request originated with a motorist who stated that the double yellow lane markings on the south leg of the intersection “go too far.” Staff discussed this and recommended that, due to the pedestrian crossing distance and large radius at this location, a crosswalk be striped on the south leg of the intersection, along with a “pork chop” island to delineate right-turning motions. See map at right.

Staff recommends postponing until spring 2014 to allow for further review and analysis.



Map: Wilson Lane and Eden Avenue – proposed crosswalk

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety-related issues handled.

- D1. Call from a resident stating that vehicles are parking on the “stub street” of Creek Valley Rd east of Nordic Dr. Caller said there is no parking on that street and vehicles should not be there. Call was returned, and the requestor was told that parking is allowed except for in front of No Parking signs at end of street, near trail to park.
- D2. Requestor states that vehicles are speeding on Trillium Lane near Lantana Ln. EPD was notified and will take speed counts on Trillium Lane.
- D3. Call from a resident on Heather Lane, stating that the intersection of Heather and Vernon Ave is dark and unsafe for pedestrians as vehicles turn off of Vernon. Voicemail was left informing of the petition process, and an email was sent with the link to the petition web page.
- D4. Call from a resident near the intersection of Malibu Dr and Park Terrace, stating that guests are receiving parking tickets for parking too close to stop signs (3-way stop). Requestor would like “no parking within 30 feet of stop sign) signs posted. Call was returned, telling resident that this is not standard City practice as this is a state law.

- D5. Motorist states that there is a wide white painted strip located in the right-hand, southbound lane on France Avenue in the north leg of its intersection with 66th Street. France Ave is a County road, thus Hennepin County was contacted and stated that they will notify their maintenance department to remove the stripe.

- D6. Phone call from a resident stating that traffic from eastbound Highway 62 is exiting the highway at Gleason and heading straight back onto the onramp to eastbound Highway 62. Resident stated that the resulting high level of congestion makes it unsafe for pedestrians and would like the Edina Police Department to issue citations. Call was returned to the resident stating that this action is not illegal.

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY ROOM
NOVEMBER 21, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

- On Oct. 24, he asked why staff decided to move forward with the sidewalk and not streetlights even though most were not in favor of sidewalk and Director Houle said he would check with staff and he is still waiting for a response.
- ETC was misinformed that there was overwhelming support for the sidewalk; he attended the neighborhood sidewalk meeting and residents were not asked their preference for sidewalk; much of the discussion centered on traffic, parking and some talk about the sidewalk.
- Petition walked around and it was 2/3 against and 1/3 for the sidewalk.
- Odd that it was passed forward with an open issue on the table and he would like to know why.

Art Thelemann, 5132 Valley View Rd, said the following:

- Ask to have the minutes corrected to show correct spelling of his last name and that he opposed the sidewalk;
- He's read everything that he could find, including Council Connection that talked about the Living Street Policy and he is curious how they are moving forward with it when the implementation plan is not yet developed.
- He cross-referenced the survey results with those who attended the sidewalk meeting and 10 of the 17 families said no to the sidewalk; this is not support for the sidewalk;
- Difficult to access information on the website – still looking for the difference between local and collector streets.
- Biased against the residents.

Member Janovy motioned to amend the October 24 minutes as requested by Mr. Thelemann and the motion was seconded by member Iyer. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Committee Report of November 6, 2013

Section C: member Janovy said as part of the Grandview CAT, economic development manager Neuendorf has engaged Kimley Horn to do a traffic study and she recommended that planner Nolan connect with him.

Section D-2: After discussion, it was decided that this would be removed for clarification of the location.

Motion was made by member Janovy and seconded by member Iyer to forward the November 6 Traffic Safety Report to City Council without Section D-2. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Updates

Student Members - None

Bike Edina Task Force

Member Janovy reported that Quality Bicycle Products had a mini-bike summit with the cities of Edina, Bloomington and Richfield and another one is planned for January. The consultant that is developing Hennepin County's bike plan was in attendance and they are seeking input via an online survey. Planner Nolan said he is on the policy advisory committee.