

## WASHINGTON BLVD SPEED STUDY

### TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Koclanis, Village of River Forest  
 FROM: Jim Yuratovac, Thomas Engineering Group, LLC  
 DATE: September 16, 2024  
 RE: Washington Blvd Speed Study

TEG previously performed speed and volume counts along Washington Blvd as part of the Village-wide Traffic Study in June of 2023. Since that time, the Village has updated Washington Blvd with plastic bollards acting as curb bump-outs for an interim improvement before the permanent concrete bump-outs. To determine the effectiveness of the temporary installation and to determine what the next steps will be for the corridor, TEG performed an updated 3-day speed collection study. The speed collection was done near the intersection of Forest Ave for both the 2023 and 2024 periods. Counters were consistently placed in such a way to record drivers at full speed.

#### Data

Ancillary to the speed collection TEG also collected traffic volumes over the study period. The table below summarizes the traffic volume and speed data that was collected in 2023 and 2024. TEG would like to note that both periods studied showed similar traffic volumes, as well as directional splits.

Count Dates	Condition	Daily Average Traffic		85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed (MPH)	
		EB	WB	EB	WB
6/8/2023	Pre-Bump-out	3217	2357	39	39
9/10/2024 – 9/12/2024	Post-Bump-out	3960	2479	35	32

#### Conclusion:

Based on the results of the speed collection, TEG noted a drop in 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed between 4-7 mph below the original 2023 speed data. Considering the roadway remains the same excluding some visual barriers (plastic bollards), this is a notable reduction in speed. TEG considered that increased traffic volumes could influence speeds along the corridor, but as can be seen from the ancillary volume data TEG recorded; volumes were close enough that they could not explain the change in driver speeds.

TEG acknowledges the positive impact of the plastic bollards in reducing driver speeds along Washington Blvd. However, to achieve the desired outcome of aligning the 85th percentile speed with the posted speed limit, we recommend implementing the complete traffic calming measures previously provided. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (773)263-6363 or by e-mail at jamesy@thomas-engineering.com.

Sincerely,

**thomas engineering group, llc**



James Yuratovac, P.E., PTOE, RSP2I  
 Senior Project Manager

