



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – 7:30 PM

Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 1/18/17 Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting.
3. Public Comment
4. Request by Alfred Swanson (on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church) that consideration be given to installing an Accessible Parking Zone on the east side of the church between the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 pm (Sundays only).
5. Request by Sean Toohey of 1526 Ashland that consideration be given to installing a No Parking Zone on the east side of Ashland Avenue, between North Avenue and LeMoyne Street, Monday through Saturday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.
6. Review of Chicago Avenue design as it relates to traffic calming measures as recommended by the Village's Design Engineering Consultant.
7. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Valenti, Commissioner Osga, Commissioner Jayaraman, and Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Cleary.

Public Comment

Chairman Rees acknowledges former Chairman Hagensick who recently passed away. He was Chairman for several years and served the Village in multiple capacities. Mr. Rees will now be taking over as Chairman and welcomes Mr. Cleary as a new member of the board.

Old Business

Chairman Rees starts by asking for a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings on June 22, 2016, July 20, 2016 and for September 21, 2016. Commissioner Valenti made the motion and Commissioner Gillis seconded the motion to approve. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request that consideration be given to creating a “Resident Only” parking zone on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm (Monday through Friday, not including holidays).

Chairman Rees notes that this topic was briefly discussed on the minutes of July 20, 2016. A recommendation was made by Commissioner Valenti’s motion to install No Parking Zones on the North and South side of Augusta Street - placed fifty feet on both sides of Jackson Avenue, on the North and South side of Augusta Street.

Nancy Fasano has lived at 1009 Jackson since 1989. When the education building was put up on Monroe and Augusta all the residents were concerned about parking on Jackson Avenue. At that time Concordia University said they had parking available and would not park on Jackson. The Village Board also mentioned if there was a problem later they would put up something if needed. In the last three years there have been cars parked on Jackson causing difficulty when getting out of their driveways. Problems also arise during leaf pick up and snow removal. Everyone on the block agreed and signed the petition with the exception of one home, which is empty.

Erin Reaney of 1015 Jackson Avenue points out that Concordia University has a huge parking garage, but cars are still parking on their street.

Mrs. Fasano wants to clarify they ask for Resident Parking Only with the exception of holidays. They had previously been told Resident Parking Only would include holidays. If Christmas fell during the week guests would not be allowed to park on the street.

Chairman Rees adds that it is common for the restrictions to be Monday through Friday, except holidays. Many tend to be limited to one side of the street. It's acknowledged that Resident Only restrictions can impose hardship for people who have nannies, lawn care, visitors etc. The restriction would apply to all those people. He recommends the board consider restrictions on the East side only to prevent those.

Mrs. Fasano assures that most people she spoke to want the restrictions on both sides of Jackson Avenue. They would still run into the problem of not being able to get out of their driveways due to people parking extremely close. For example she just had her bathroom remodeled. There was a dumpster, two vans plus the helpers that parked on the street. Wonders if the Village gives a parking pass in that instance?

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer explains there are two different zones. The Resident Parking Zone is the instance they would have "X" number of passes per house on that block. They are the only ones allowed to park there. In this particular case they are looking for a Residential Parking Zone which would allow any resident within the Village to park on that particular street during allowed hours. There would be no permits or passes handed out. In that instance where there is a contractor the police department can issue temporary passes.

Mrs. Reaney asks if they could do two hour parking maximum like they do on areas by the train? Commissioner Gillis responds there is two hour parking between Jackson and Monroe. Cars there are parked six to eight hours daily. It is something that can be done, however probably will not work. For two hours the parked cars will still be blocking their driveways.

Commissioner Cleary lives on the 900 block of Bonnie Brae Place, he is very sympathetic to this request. His block has no parking Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. They always presumed it was because of the school. On Sunday mornings, members of the Fellowship Church on Harlem and Augusta all park on Bonnie Brae. He has experienced many times people parking right on the edge of his driveway. Wonders why they have No Parking while others have Resident Parking during the week. He has not talked to anyone on his block and does not know what the general opinion is. On the West side of the street it's No Parking. On the East side of the 800 block there is two hour parking. Asks himself why his block stands out with absolutely No Parking 9:00am to 5:00pm?

Chairman Rees observes this issue is apart from today's agenda. Nonetheless doesn't know if there is a necessity to the people on that block to have No Parking oppose to Resident Parking. Presumes it's just a historical accident. They try to be consistent on how parking is restricted, but it's not perfect.

Commissioner Osga adds they are aware the dormitory is coming by Concordia University, therefore that area is evolving. They now have to evolve with it. The congestion in that area seems to be at Augusta Avenue. From what he read they have non-resident who seem to be students parking on their block. Students are utilizing that because it's a block and a half from their section of the University. Rather than the two blocks from the parking garage.

Commissioner Osga shares that one block East of them, on Monroe Avenue they have No Parking at all on the West side. On the East side of the street it is Residential Parking Only,

8:00am through 4:00pm Monday through Friday. The street is a little more narrow hence if there is parking on one side, they need to leave the other side empty. He is leaning to liking the idea of Resident Parking Only. Monroe Avenue does not seem like a super wide street. Questions if they should do the West side No Parking and the East side Resident Parking?

Commissioner Valenti thinks it might make sense to put a time restriction, a less restrictive timing initially. If it doesn't work they can do something else. Suggests Resident Parking Only Monday through Friday 8:00am through 4:00pm.

Commissioner Osga adds before they vote that Keystone Avenue and Monroe Avenue have restrictions 8:00am through 8:00pm. Asks if they are thinking of keeping things the same or go block by block by the recommendations of the people that live there?

Chairman Rees can see one factor in cutting in favor of consistency. The police are used to patrolling a certain time. He is uncertain if it's consistent enough to justify that. Having a variety of times can add to the confusion.

Commissioner Valenti made the motion to have "Resident Only" parking on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00am through 4:00pm excluding Holidays, seconded by Commissioner Cleary.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Chairman Rees explained they make the recommendation to the Village Board. Followed by the Village Board determining if they are going to adopt it and make it a Village ordinance.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line

R. Douglas Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: -----

AGENDA ITEM 1

Jeff Loster

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Jeff Loster
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Grace Lutheran Church

Jeff,

I write to follow up on our conversation of a couple of weeks ago about getting Grace Lutheran Church on the August agenda for the Traffic and Safety Commission.

As I mentioned when we spoke, Grace is interested in having handicapped parking marked for Sunday mornings - 8 am to 12 noon for that portion of Bonnie Brae Place south of Division Street that is between the entrance to the Church and the main entrance to the School Building. That is room for approximately four cars.

This request does NOT include that portion of Bonnie Brae between the main building entrance and the driveway entrance to the Concordia parking garage.

Please send me the specific information Grace will need to complete as well as the deadlines for submitting the information so Grace can be placed on the agenda for the Traffic and Safety August meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Al Swanson

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Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON BONNIE BIRCH PLACE IN FRONT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~~FOR~~ DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIMES.

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Kathy Lipscher	233 Forest Ave RF	6/18/17	Kathy Lipscher
Kim Frueh	233 Forest Ave RF	6/18/17	Kim Frueh
Judy Beghian	6 N 125 Acacia Ln Exeter	6/18/17	Judy Beghian
JOHN LATTYAK	400 N HARVEY OAK PARK	6/18/17	John Lattyak
Rev. Dr. Guyia Paul	1131 Gailerson Oak Park	6/18/17	Guyia Paul
Ly Le Montensen	810 N 2nd Ave Maywood	6/18/17	Ly Le Montensen
Ruth Rehwaldt	403 N Marion St. O.P.	06/18/2017	Ruth N. Rehwaldt
Jo-Ellyn C Dorsey Swanson	7757 Van Buren #218 F. Pk	06/18/2017	Jo-Ellyn C Dorsey Swanson
D. Johnson	10929 Kaley Ln Woodstock	6/18/17	D. Johnson
Laura N. Wain	1004 N. SATLON AVE OP	6/18/17	Laura N. Wain
Gary Wenzel	647 N. Cuyler Ave, OP	6/18/17	Gary Wenzel
Susie Calhoun	671 Winston Dr. Melrose ^{Park}	6/18/17	Susie Calhoun
Susan Peters	1826 N. Nordica Ave Chicago	6/18/17	Susan Peters
Barbara Carlson	930 Ontario St of 60302	6/18/17	Barbara Carlson
Marilyn Heppner	401 Augusta Maywood	6/18/17	Marilyn Heppner
Ken Heppner	401 Augusta Maywood	6/18/17	Ken Heppner
Stewart Clarke	5915 W. Race Chicago	6/18/17	Stewart Clarke
Bruce Van Heckelem	420 N. Lombard Oak Park	6/18/2017	Bruce Van Heckelem
MARY MARGARET BARTLEY	5915 W. RACE AVE ^{Chicago}	6/18/2017	Mary Margaret Bartley
Thomas A. Swann	7757 VAN BUREN FOREST PK	6/18/17	Thomas A. Swann

Handwritten note: *Handwritten approval*

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON BONNIE BRAG PLACE IN FRONT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~~FOR~~ DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIMES.

PRINT Name	Address	Date	Signature
Ingrid Swanson Ingrid Swanson	576 Thatcher, River Forest	6-18-18	Ingrid Swanson
LEONARD G. BERGMAN	6W 125 ACACIA LN - MEXWOOD	6-18-17	Leonard G. Bergman
Ellen Pullin	3256 Hartzell St. Evanston, IL	6-18-17	Ellen Pullin
Jennifer Staples	906 Forest River Forest 60305	6-18-17	Jennifer Staples
Verna Offmann Marilyn Wenzel	704 William St. R. F	6-18-17	Verna L. Offmann
Marilyn Wenzel	647 N. Cayler Ave OP	6-18-17	Marilyn Wenzel
Roberta Gillespie	1109 S. Thomas Forest Park	6-18-17	Roberta Gillespie
HEIDI RUEHLE-MAY	535 S EUCLID OAK PARK	6-18-17	Heidi Rühle-May
NADY CHRISTOPHER	931 D. GROVE OAK PARK	6-18-17	Nady Christophers
Richard Colhoun	671 Winston Dr Melrose Park	6-18-17	Richard Colhoun
MARJORIE SANGER	7707 W. SUNSET DR. ^{ELMWOOD} PARK	6-18-17	Marjorie Sanger
Stephen Kaufman	5142 N. Oconto Harwood Hts	6-18-17	Stephen Kaufman
KEVINETH FOLGERS	1135 BONNIE BRAG R.F. IL	6-18-17	Kevineth Folgers
Julia Lehmann	100 E 14 TH ST Apt 2807 ⁶⁰⁶⁰⁵ Chicago	6-18-17	Julia Lehmann
Susan Walsh	1116 Clinton Ave ^{OP} 60304	6-18-17	Susan Walsh
VICTOR BRANDS	1050 Euclid, Elmhurst	6-18-2017	Victor Brands
Ann Anderson	539 N. East Ave. O.P.	6-18-17	Ann Anderson
Pat Anderson	1025 Pleasant Pl #8 E.O.P.	6-18-17	Patricia Anderson
TOM MAXWELL	329 UVEDALE RD RIVERSIDE	6-18-17	Thomas Maxwell
ROBERT F. BURKE	203 N. KENILWORTH, O.P.	6-18-12	Robert Burke

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Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON BONNIE BIRAE PLACE IN FRONT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ~~FOR~~ DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIMES.

PRINT Name	Address	Date	Signature
Scott Christoph	931 N. Grove	6/19/17	Scott Christoph
Marion Brown	203 N. Kenilworth	6/19/17	Marion L. Brown
Tom Kay	147 N. MARSH, IL	6/19/17	Tom Kay
MIKE Gillespie	1109 THOMAS FP IL 60130	6/19/17	Michael Gillespie
Barbara VanHevelin	420 N. Lombard OP 60302	6/18/17	Barbara VanHevelin
Pastor Dave Wegner	540 Hannah Ave FP 6030	6/18/17	Pastor Dave Wegner
KM LUCOTT	925 EISEN FP	6/18/17	KM LUCOTT
Caryl Stanger	727 Gundersen OP	6/18/17	Caryl Stanger
John Stanger	727 Gundersen OP	6/18/17	John Stanger
Ruth ReKo	1020 N. Harlem 5F PF	6/18/17	Ruth ReKo
Margaret Burke	203 N. Kenilworth 3H O.P.	6/18/17	Margaret Burke
Andrew P. Massmann	546 N. HARVEY OP 60302	6/18/17	Andrew P. Massmann
Julia STEVE	2203 N 22 TH COURT EP	60707	Julia Steve
Tom TYRRELL	2133 N. 74 TH Ct, Elmwood PK, IL	60707	Tom Tyrrell
Nancy Cordes	1050 S. Euclid Ave ^{ELMWOOD PK, IL}	60817	Nancy A. Cordes
BRUCE CORDS	1050 S. EUCLID AVE, APT 3164 ^{ELMWOOD PK, IL}	60817	John B. Cordes
Madene Hallman	10833 Madendale	6/18/17	Madene Hallman
Nancy Kaufman	5142 N. Donta ^{HARWOOD HTS}	6/18/17	Nancy Kaufman
SUE Walsch	522 N. Humphrey OP 60302	6/18/17	Sue Walsch
John Bouman	1014 N. 2nd Maywood	6/18/17	John Bouman

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Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON BONNIE PRATE PLACE IN FRONT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIMES.

PEWT Name	Address	Date	Signature
Chad Bohman	818 S. Cayler	6-25-17	Chad Bohman
ERIC SCHMACK Eric Schmack	628 N Taylor Ave	6-25-17	Eric Schmack
Rich Schunkjesel	1019 W 3rd Ave Maywood	06/25/17	Rich Schunkjesel
Austin Mergan	7855 W Cor-Merrel St Elmwood Park	6/25/17	Austin Mergan
HILDEGARDE SCHMIDT	927 FOREST RIVER FOREST IL	6-25-17	H. Schmidt
RONALD GREENS	1353 VILLAGE DR ARLIN HEIGHTS	6-25-17	R. Greens
PAULA ANONSON	719 CLINTON PL. RIVER FOREST	6-25/17	Paula Anonson
Barbara Hofmaier	210 S. Elmwood Oak Park	6-25-17	Barbara J. Hofmaier
DAVID KLUGE	4033 PRESCOTT, LYONS	6-25-17	David Kluge
Margaret Kruse	527 Woodbine, O.P.	6-25-17	Margaret Kruse
Christa Krout	142 LeMoine OP	6/25/17	Christa Krout
Ellyn Levell	601 S. Ridgeland Ave O.P.	6-25/17	Ellyn Levell
DOROTHY WILKIE	605 S. SCOVILLE OP	6/25/2017	Dorothy Wilkie

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Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

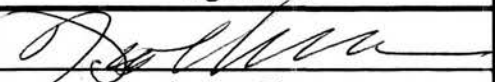

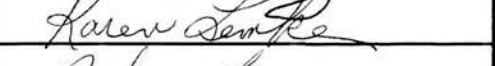


Requested Action(s): ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON BONNIE BRIDE PLACE IN FRONT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TIMES.

PEWT Name	Address	Date	Signature
Paulette A. Reddel	1500 Grant Ave. Melrose Pk	6/25/17	Paulette A. Reddel
Lois Guebert	1722 Hudson Bay, Palatine	6/25/17	Lois Guebert
Cheryl Harding	559 Ashland River Forest	6/25/17	Cheryl Harding
John G SANGER	7707 W. SUNSET DRIVE E.P.	6/25/17	John G. Sanger
DANIEL W. WUTHER	215 KEYSTONE AVE, River Forest	6/27/17	Daniel W. Wuth
Kathryn Brewer	824 S. Harvey Oak Park IL	6-25-17	KB
Linda Schwab	1434 CLINTON RIVER FOREST, IL	6/25/17	Linda Schwab
Susan Hammon	2580 Forest View, River Grove	6/25/17	Susan L. Hammon
DEAN LUEKING	829 LATHROP ^{river forest}	6/25/17	Dean Lueking
CHARLES LEVELL	601 S. RIDGE ^{OAK PARK} CLAY AVE	6/25/17	Charles Level
Greg Rohlfin	1615 N. 78 th CT, Elmwood Pk	6/25/17	Greg Rohlfin
MARK BOUMAN	850 N. FAIR OAKS, OP	6/25/17	Mark Boman
Paul Koester	734 Lathrop Ave RF	6/25/17	

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): Additional Hospital Parking on Bonnie Brae Place in front of Grace Lutheran Church during Sunday Morning worship times.

PRINT Name	Address	Date	Signature
DAVID ANDERSON	6301 PONTIAC INDIAN HEAD RD	6-25-2017	
MIKE BERG	701 FOREST AVE OAK PARK	6-25-2017	
KAREN LEMKE	3102 N. 78TH AVENUE, ELMWOOD PARK	6-25-2017	
Belen Gresens	1353 Village Dr. Arlington Hts	6-25-2017	
Sandy Lantz	822 North Humphrey Ave Oak Park	6-25-2017	

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DIVISION ST

No Parking

BONNIE BRAE

PROPOSED:
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Accessible Parking Only
(Sundays Only)

7:45-8:45 am
&
2:00-3:15 pm
Student Loading Zone (Mon-Fri, School Days)
8:45 am - 2:00 pm
1 Hr Parking (Mon-Fri, School Days)

AGENDA ITEM 2

Jeff Loster

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 1:32 PM
To: Jeff Loster
Subject: Re: Parking on 1500 block of Ashland Ave.

Good Afternoon Jeff,

I'm requesting a no parking zone on the east side of Ashland, from North Avenue to Le Moyne Street. Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00pm

Hope this helps to get it started. FYI today there are 10 cars on both sides. Only 2 have stickers Oak Park & River Grove. The others don't have any such sticker.

Thanks for your help.
Sean

Resident request was subsequently changed to "Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm."

> W. Sean Toohey
> 1526 Ashland Ave.
> River Forest, IL. 60305-1034

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): Eliminate Parking on the East Side of Ashland Ave - 1500 North Block -
from 8^{am} 3^{pm} Monday thru Saturday.

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Karin Danganan	1523 Ashland Ave	5-12-17	Karin R. Danganan
Mary Tobney	1526 Ashland Ave	5-12-17	Mary G. Tobney
Donna Schuler	1533 Ashland Ave	5-12-17	Donna R. Schuler
Ralph Schuler	1533 Ashland	5-12-17	Ralph Schuler
Kelin Mahoney	1531 Ashland	5-12-17	Kelin Mahoney
Mike Hartmann	1527 Ashland	5-12-17	Mike Hartmann
Katie Hartmann	1527 Ashland	5-12-17	Katie Hartmann
Dan Senese	1519 Ashland Ave.	5-12-17	Danny Senese
Janet Moore	1513 Ashland	5-12-17	Janet Moore
Sadie Calvin	1510 Ashland	5-13-17	Sadie Calvin
Joe P.	1522 Ashland	5-13-17	Joe Proietto
Tina DeH	1506 Ashland	5-13-17	Tina DeH
Janet Stompor	1507 Ashland	5-13-17	Janet Stompor
John Stompor	1507 Ashland	5-13-17	John Stompor

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POLICE DEPARTMENT PARKING SURVEY
1500 Block of Ashland

		Parked "Resident" Vehicles	Parked "Non- Resident" Vehicles	Total Number of Vehicles
Wednesday, May 17th	9:45 AM	2	9	11
	1:00 PM	1	10	11
Thursday, May 18th	9:00 AM	2	9	11
	12:00 PM	3	14	17
Wednesday, May 24th	11:00 AM	1	10	11
	3:00 PM	1	13	14
Thursday, May 25th	8:45 AM	0	6	6
	12:00 PM	0	9	9

AGENDA ITEM 3



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 19, 2017

TO: Traffic and Safety Commission

FROM: Jeff Loster, Village Engineer

SUBJECT: Chicago Avenue Resurfacing – Design Review/Feedback

The Village of River Forest is planning to resurface Chicago Avenue between Thatcher Avenue and Harlem Avenue during the 2018 calendar year. A contract was awarded to Bollinger, Lach, & Associates (BLA) earlier this year to perform design engineering services for this project. Similar to the work that was recently completed along Division Street, the top layer of roadway pavement will be removed and replaced and the sidewalk ramps at intersections will be reviewed for compliance with the standards set by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Those that do not comply will be replaced.

In addition to this standard scope of work, Village Staff has requested that the consultant also review traffic patterns at three specific locations along this corridor:

- Keystone/Forest @ Chicago – the concern at this location is speeding
- Jackson @ Chicago – the concern at this location is pedestrian safety
- Bonnie Brae @ Chicago – the concern at this location is improper lane usage and traffic backup

These three areas of concern have come up at previous Village Board and Traffic and Safety Meetings. It was Staff's intent to incorporate review of these issues within the context of the entire Chicago Avenue corridor.

BLA has performed traffic observation and reviewed accident and speed data provided by the River Forest Police Department. They have summarized their findings and recommendations in the attached memorandum. Village Staff is requesting review of these recommendations and any applicable feedback from the Traffic and Safety Commission before the recommendations are provided to the Village Board for review.

If the Commission is in agreement with the proposed traffic calming measures, it would be appropriate to make a motion to accept the proposed design changes in an effort to resolve the traffic-related issues along the Chicago Avenue corridor.

Attachments: BLA Memorandum
Chicago Avenue Corridor Exhibit
Close-up exhibit of Traffic Bump-outs

CHICAGO AVENUE TRAFFIC OBSERVATION MEMORANDUM

FROM
THATCHER AVENUE TO HARLEM AVENUE
Section No.: 17-00099-00-RS



Prepared for:

The Village of River Forest
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, Illinois 60305
p: 708.714.3551

Prepared by:

Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc.
333 Pierce Road, Suite 200
Itasca, Illinois 60143
p: 630-438-6400

July 12, 2017

CONSULTING
ENGINEERS



Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc.
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■ ILLINOIS
■ INDIANA
■ WISCONSIN



MEMORANDUM

CHICAGO AVENUE IMPROVEMENT

TRAFFIC OBSERVATION

(July 12 2017)

1 INTRODUCTION

This memorandum summarizes the traffic observation and vehicle movements conducted by Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc. (BLA) for multiple intersections along the Chicago Avenue corridor. The observations were conducted at the intersections of Bonnie Brae, Jackson Avenue, and William Street. Based on our findings and subsequent investigations into vehicle speeds and turning movements, we are providing our recommendations to the Village of River Forest in order to determine preferred traffic calming measures for Chicago Avenue between Thatcher Avenue and Harlem Avenue.

2 BACKGROUND

Chicago Avenue is a two lane residential roadway with parking lanes on either side from Thatcher Avenue to Harlem Avenue. The intersection of Lathrop Avenue is controlled via a Village owned traffic signal. The intersections of Park Avenue and William Street are 4-way stop controlled intersection with the remaining intersections along the corridor being 2-way stop control with the stop on the intersecting side roads. Multiple roads intersecting Chicago Avenue are offset from the north to south.

The Village of River Forest has received reports and has identified areas of concern along Chicago Avenue between Thatcher Avenue and Harlem Avenue:

- *Pedestrian safety at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Chicago Avenue*
- *Improper lane usage (ex. passing vehicles in parking lanes)*
- *Vehicles speeding through the west end of the Chicago Avenue Corridor*
- *Vehicle staking near the east end of Chicago Avenue*

3 OBSERVATION

Between the dates of May 17, 2017 and May 23, 2017 BLA performed 6 hour manual traffic counts at three different intersections along the Chicago Avenue Corridor. The intersections where the counts were performed are as follows:

1. Bonnie Brae and Chicago Avenue
2. William Street and Chicago Avenue
3. Jackson Avenue and Chicago Avenue

The traffic at each intersection was observed between the hours of 6:00 am to 9:00 am and then again between 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The hours of observation were determined based on the surrounding school schedules and peak commuting hours along Chicago Avenue. The movement of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists were recorded. The emphasis of the traffic observation counts was to obtain physical data and information regarding vehicles improperly utilizing the existing parking lanes as a passing lane. Below is a summary of the intersection observations at each intersection. The recorded traffic counts are provided in the attached *Summary of Traffic Survey* tables.

Bonnie Brae and Chicago Avenue:

The intersection of Bonnie Brae and Chicago Avenue produced a significant number of vehicles utilizing the parking lanes to pass turning vehicles, both in the morning and afternoon observation periods. The largest number of improper usage of the parking lane occurred during the time period from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at a total of 24 vehicles. These vehicles were traveling on Chicago Avenue from Harlem Avenue in the westbound direction and passed in the parking lane to bypass left turning vehicles from Chicago Avenue onto southbound Bonnie Brae.



Improper Usage of Parking Lane to Bypass Left Turn Movements onto Bonnie Brae

During the morning hours the Harlem Avenue Traffic Signal produced large congestion on Chicago Avenue in the eastbound direction. The back-ups became significant during the 7:00 am to 8:00 am hour where vehicles were observed extending to Clinton Avenue. The long queues

blocked the Bonnie Brae intersection causing a hazardous sight distance concern for the occasional vehicle crossing Chicago Avenue heading north or south on Bonnie Brae. This became especially high risk when eastbound vehicles attempted to reach the Chicago Avenue Left Turn Lane onto northbound Harlem Avenue to bypass the queued through bound vehicles via the westbound lane of Chicago Avenue. This did not occur on a regular basis but was a point of concern during the observation.



Eastbound Traffic Resulting on Bonnie Brae Traffic Sight Distance Issues.

William Street and Chicago Avenue:

William Street is a four way stop controlled intersection with the north and south legs of William Street being offset. Even though William Street dead ends at Concordia University to the north, a large amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic was not observed during the morning and afternoon peak hours. The largest number of users was 13 (11 pedestrians / 2 bicyclists) during the 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm time period (north / south utilization).

Very few vehicles were observed utilizing the parking lanes as a passing lane at the intersection of William Street and Chicago Avenue. During the BLA’s traffic observation periods only a total of 3 vehicles improperly utilized the parking lane to pass stationary vehicles. The existing 4-way stop control reduced the number of improper movements because the left turning cars were able to vacate the intersection while oncoming traffic stopped at the stop sign. Significant back-ups were observed in the eastbound direction extending to Monroe Avenue in the 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm which resulted in the improper usage of the parking lane.



Eastbound queue vehicles on Chicago Avenue at William Street

Jackson Avenue and Chicago Avenue:

Jackson Avenue is a main route for pedestrians to access the Roosevelt Public School, River Forest Public Library, River Forest Tennis Club, and Centennial Park. During the school year and school hours a crossing guard is present assisting the pedestrians across Chicago Avenue. The remainder of the year and outside school hours there is no assistance for the pedestrians crossing Chicago Avenue. There has been a concern raised about the safety of crossing Chicago Avenue at Jackson Avenue, without the crossing guard there is no existing stop control on Chicago Avenue at this location.

BLA observed this intersection while school was in session to obtain an accurate count of vehicles and pedestrians utilizing this intersection. It was observed and confirmed that a majority of the pedestrians and bicyclists passing this intersection are commuting north and south with the heaviest pedestrian traffic of 33 users between 8:00 am and 9:00 am. The crossing guard arrived on site to assist the pedestrians and bicyclists for this peak hour only which results in an unattended intersection the remainder of the day.

Chicago Avenue Excessive Speeding:

Vehicles traveling on Chicago Avenue into the Village of River Forest from the west have been observed traveling at high rates of speeds through the residential neighborhood. The existing speed limit on Chicago Avenue is 25 mph. In order to collect physical speed the Village of River Forest Police Department located speed trailers at two locations along Chicago Avenue:

- 7900 Block of Chicago Avenue – East Side Chicago Avenue (Eastbound Lane)
- 7300 Block of Chicago Avenue – West Side Chicago Avenue (Westbound Lane)

The speed trailer placed at the 7900 block of Chicago Avenue recorded vehicle speeds between April 14, 2017 and April 24, 2017. The speed trailer placed the 7300 block recorded speeds between April 29, 2017 and May 11, 2017 and then again from May 15, 2017 to May 20, 2017.

The average speed recorded from the traffic on the west end of the Chicago Avenue Corridor near Thatcher Avenue was 30 mph. However, there were speeds reached of 71 mph with an extensive amount of vehicles traveling 40 mph or above. This holds true for the vehicles recorded on the speed trailer placed at the 7300 block of Chicago Avenue on the east end of the corridor.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the traffic pattern observations, the police department provided vehicle speed data, and existing constraints, BLA recommends the following improvements to reduce and eliminate improper lane usage and increasing the safety for both pedestrians and vehicular commuters along Chicago Avenue from Thatcher Avenue to Harlem Avenue.

Bonnie Brae and Chicago Avenue:

The intersection of Bonnie Brae experienced the largest number of vehicles improperly using the parking lanes on Chicago Avenue as turn lanes. BLA recommends the implementation of “bump-outs” at the intersection to reduce the concerns and increase the safety of the intersection. Due to the close proximity of Bonnie Brae to Harlem Avenue, the “bump-outs” would be recommended on the south side of Chicago Avenue on the east and west corners of the intersection only. The extension of the “bump-outs” into Chicago Avenue would maintain proper lane usage, reduce the length of roadway pedestrians will cross, and increase the safety of vehicles crossing Chicago Avenue on Bonnie Brae by eliminating the chance for vehicles to travel side by side.

It is not recommended to provide the “bump-outs” on the north side of Chicago Avenue. Currently vehicles in the westbound direction bypass left turning vehicles onto Bonnie Brae by means of the parking lane. By eliminating the vehicles ability to bypass, the queue of vehicles waiting on the left turning vehicle, potentially would affect traffic on Harlem Avenue.

William Street and Chicago Avenue:

BLA does not recommend improvements to the intersection of Chicago Avenue and William Street based on the traffic observations performed. There were a minimal amount of vehicles between the peak hours that improperly used the parking lanes as a bypass. In the six hour observation 3 vehicles improperly performed a movement. It is not seen that the benefit of implementing “bump-outs” at this intersection improves or reduces the improper movements.

Jackson Avenue and Chicago Avenue:

The cross sectional width of Chicago Avenue (approximately 40 feet) throughout the corridor results in an expansive pedestrian crossing. This is especially a concern at Jackson Avenue where a high volume of pedestrians utilize Jackson Avenue to get to the school and other public Village amenities. This concern is elevated due to the unprotected crossing as a result of a no-stop condition on Chicago Avenue.

To improve the safety of the pedestrians crossing Chicago Avenue at Jackson Avenue is to provide “bump-outs” that protrude into the Chicago Avenue pavement at all four corners of the intersection. The “bump-outs” would replace the parking stall width and extend the sidewalk ultimately reducing the width of crossing Chicago Avenue from 40 feet to 26 feet.

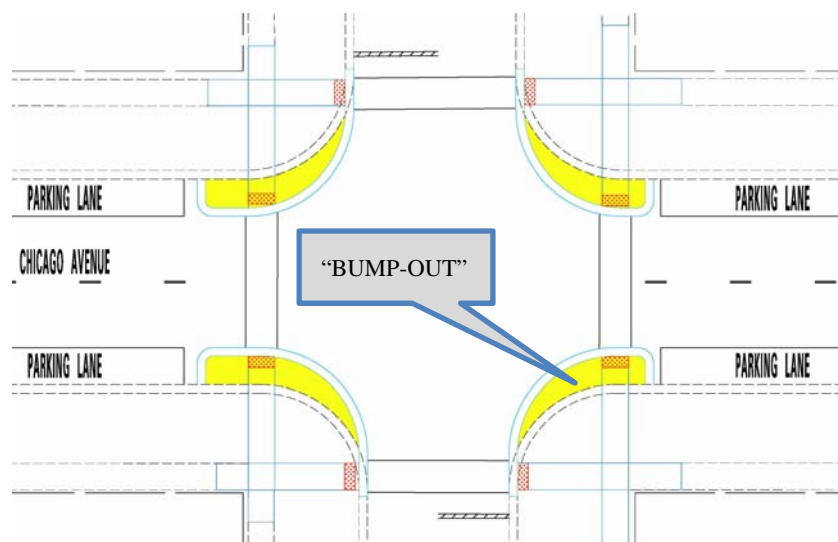
To increase the awareness of vehicles to the crossing pedestrians, it is recommended to implement additional signage proceeding the intersection and at the intersection of Jackson Avenue and Chicago Avenue. Per the MUTCD Section 2B.11 “Yield to Pedestrians” or “Stop to Pedestrians” signage shall be implemented prior to the intersection and within the crosswalk.



Chicago Avenue Excessive Speeding:

There are multiple elements which could be utilized in the attempt to reduce the speed of vehicles such as speed bumps, speed tables, traffic islands, and additional stop controlled intersection. BLA however, does not recommend these solutions due to maintenance concerns and unwarranted stop control changes at this time.

A traffic calming technique that BLA recommends to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the Village of River Forest from the west is road narrowing. BLA would recommend implementing this technique by the use of “bump-outs” at Keystone Avenue. The “bump-outs” would be placed at the four corners of the intersection extending into the Chicago Avenue pavement. The width of the travel lanes would remain the same but the additional pavement width from the parking lanes would be eliminated at the intersection only. This would not eliminate parking spaces since parking is prohibited near the intersection. To the motorists the roadway would appear narrower resulting in the reduction of their speed.



This memorandum summarizes BLA's traffic observation at multiple locations along Chicago Avenue and provides recommendations to reduce improper vehicle movements. Upon review of the provided recommendations please feel free to contact me to discuss in further detail. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me at 630-438-6400 or at mcesario@bollingerlach.com.

Sincerely,

BOLLINGER, LACH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cesario', written in a cursive style.

Matt Cesario, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachments:

- 1) Summary of Traffic Observation*

Attachment:

Summary of Traffic Observation

RIVER FOREST

BOLLINGER, LACH & ASSOCIATES



SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC SURVEY

INTERSECTION: **Chicago Avenue and Bonnie Brae**
 MUNICIPALITY: **Village of River Forest**
 COUNTY: **Cook County**

Time Range	Description	TRAFFIC FROM NORTH Bonnie Brae				TRAFFIC FROM SOUTH Bonnie Brae				TOTAL NORTH AND SOUTH	TRAFFIC FROM EAST Chicago Avenue				TRAFFIC FROM WEST Chicago Avenue				TOTAL EAST AND WEST	GRAND TOTAL
		GOING			TOTAL	GOING			TOTAL		GOING			TOTAL	GOING			TOTAL		
		WEST ↙	SOUTH ↓	EAST ↘		EAST ↗	NORTH ↑	WEST ↖			SOUTH ↘	WEST ←	NORTH ↑		NORTH ↗	EAST →	SOUTH ↘			
6:00-7:00	Vehicles	2	4	5	11	5	3	1	9	20	0	225	0	225	1	201	1	203	428	448
	Pedestrians		2		2		3		3	5		1		1		4		4	5	10
	Bicycles		1		1		0		0	1		1		1		0		0	1	2
	Passing in Parking Lane											1		1		0		0	1	1
7:00-8:00	Vehicles	14	14	4	32	13	5	3	21	53	15	416	6	437	8	523	2	533	970	1023
	Pedestrians		6		6		5		5	11		4		4		1		1	5	16
	Bicycles		4		4		2		2	6		2		2		2		2	4	10
	Passing in Parking Lane											7		7		6		6	13	13
8:00-9:00	Vehicles	10	32	7	49	23	12	7	42	91	20	317	13	350	5	389	5	399	749	840
	Pedestrians		5		5		3		3	8		3		3		3		3	6	14
	Bicycles		0		0		1		1	1		0		0		4		4	4	5
	Passing in Parking Lane											7		7		0		0	7	7
3:30-4:30	Vehicles	12	15	8	35	25	18	4	47	82	12	361	14	387	8	441	11	460	847	929
	Pedestrians		4		4		4		4	8		2		2		2		2	4	12
	Bicycles		0		0		0		0	0		0		0		2		2	2	2
	Passing in Parking Lane											16		16		7		7	23	23
4:30-5:30	Vehicles	12	30	3	45	24	29	0	53	98	10	416	13	439	5	472	12	489	928	1026
	Pedestrians		4		4		7		7	11		5		5		2		2	7	18
	Bicycles		0		0		0		0	0		1		1		2		2	3	3
	Passing in Parking Lane											1		1		0		0	1	1
5:30-6:30	Vehicles	9	19	7	35	34	34	1	69	104	20	355	13	388	8	492	7	507	895	999
	Pedestrians		0		0		3		3	3		1		1		1		1	2	5
	Bicycles		2		2		1		1	3		2		2		1		1	3	6
	Passing in Parking Lane											24		24		0		0	24	24

Date of Traffic Survey: 6 am to 9 am was done on 5/17/2017, 3:30-6:30 pm was done on 5/24/2017

Performed By: KL

Checked By: MC

RIVER FOREST

BOLLINGER, LACH & ASSOCIATES



SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC SURVEY

INTERSECTION: **Chicago Avenue and William Street**
 MUNICIPALITY: **Village of River Forest**
 COUNTY: **Cook County**

Time Range	Description	TRAFFIC FROM NORTH				TRAFFIC FROM SOUTH				TOTAL NORTH AND SOUTH	TRAFFIC FROM EAST				TRAFFIC FROM WEST				TOTAL EAST AND WEST	GRAND TOTAL
		William Street			TOTAL	William Street			TOTAL		Chicago Avenue			TOTAL	Chicago Avenue			TOTAL		
		GOING WEST	GOING SOUTH	GOING EAST		GOING EAST	GOING NORTH	GOING WEST			GOING SOUTH	WEST	WEST		NORTH	GOING NORTH	GOING EAST			
6:00-7:00	Vehicles	1	3	6	10	3	3	1	7	17	0	166	0	166	0	176	3	179	345	362
	Pedestrians		3		3		0		0	3		1		1		2		2	3	6
	Bicycles		0		0		0		0	0		0		0		0		0	0	0
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0	0	0
7:00-8:00	Vehicles	8	34	13	55	12	19	11	42	97	12	416	8	436	6	466	17	489	925	1022
	Pedestrians		0		0		0		0	0		2		2		0		0	2	2
	Bicycles		4		4		1		1	5		2		2		2		2	4	9
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0	0	0
8:00-9:00	Vehicles	4	28	11	43	16	35	18	69	112	18	379	12	409	10	388	15	413	822	934
	Pedestrians		3		3		2		2	5		1		1		1		1	2	7
	Bicycles		0		0		1		1	1		1		1		4		4	5	6
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0	0	0
3:30-4:30	Vehicles	8	29	7	44	29	62	14	105	149	18	468	7	493	9	348	22	379	872	1021
	Pedestrians		3		3		2		2	5		2		2		3		3	5	10
	Bicycles		3		3		1		1	4		1		1		4		4	5	9
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0	0	0
4:30-5:30	Vehicles	2	34	5	41	22	41	11	74	115	20	361	8	389	15	489	24	528	917	1032
	Pedestrians		2		2		5		5	7		3		3		1		1	4	11
	Bicycles		0		0		3		3	3		1		1		1		1	2	5
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		2		2	2	2
5:30-6:30	Vehicles	12	40	3	55	13	53	9	75	130	12	413	9	434	7	502	13	522	956	1086
	Pedestrians		4		4		7		7	11		1		1		2		2	3	14
	Bicycles		0		0		2		2	2		2		2		2		2	4	6
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		1		1	1	1

Date of Traffic Survey: 5/18/2017
 Performed By: KL
 Checked By: MC

RIVER FOREST

BOLLINGER, LACH & ASSOCIATES



SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC SURVEY

INTERSECTION: Chicago Avenue and Jackson Avenue
 MUNICIPALITY: Village of River Forest
 COUNTY: Cook County

Time Range	Description	TRAFFIC FROM NORTH				TRAFFIC FROM SOUTH				TRAFFIC FROM EAST				TRAFFIC FROM WEST				TOTAL EAST AND WEST	GRAND TOTAL	
		Jackson Avenue			TOTAL	Jackson Avenue			TOTAL	Chicago Avenue			TOTAL	Chicago Avenue			TOTAL			
		GOING WEST	GOING SOUTH	GOING EAST		GOING EAST	GOING NORTH	GOING WEST		GOING SOUTH	GOING WEST	GOING NORTH		GOING NORTH	GOING EAST	GOING SOUTH				
6:00-7:00	Vehicles	1	10	2	13	1	0	0	1	14	5	205	2	212	1	245	3	249	461	475
	Pedestrians		1		1		1		1	2		2		2		1		1		2
	Bicycles		2		2		0		0	2		0		0		2		2		2
	Passing in Parking Lane				0				0	0		0		0		0		0		0
7:00-8:00	Vehicles	8	14	2	24	1	0	1	2	26	10	238	1	249	2	228	25	255	504	530
	Pedestrians		1		1		1		1	2		3		3		7		7		2
	Bicycles		11		11		0		0	11		1		1		4		4		11
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0		0
8:00-9:00	Vehicles	12	30	3	45	0	0	0	0	45	37	369	4	410	3	373	85	461	871	916
	Pedestrians		13		13		2		2	15		2		2		0		0		15
	Bicycles		18		18		0		0	18		0		0		1		1		18
	Passing in Parking Lane											3		3		0		0		0
3:30-4:30	Vehicles	10	30	2	42	1	1	2	4	46	12	424	10	446	5	498	24	527	973	1019
	Pedestrians		0		0		5		5	5		0		0		2		2		5
	Bicycles		0		0		5		5	5		1		1		3		3		5
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0		0
4:30-5:30	Vehicles	6	18	4	28	4	7	1	12	40	5	443	4	452	10	488	7	505	957	997
	Pedestrians		1		1		1		1	2		0		0		1		1		2
	Bicycles		1		1		3		3	4		1		1		0		0		4
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0		0
5:30-6:30	Vehicles	6	20	6	32	6	12	1	19	51	4	407	6	417	3	561	6	570	987	1038
	Pedestrians		0		0		0		0	0		0		0		0		0		0
	Bicycles		0		0		0		0	0		1		1		0		0		0
	Passing in Parking Lane											0		0		0		0		0

Date of Traffic Survey: 5/23/2017
 Performed By: KL
 Checked By: MC



KEYST

