

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village
11/2/2021

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
West Prairie Avenue Corridor Plan and Neighborhood Traffic Study 7	Andy Sikich Public Works Director

SYNOPSIS

A report has been prepared concerning:

- Traffic controls, parking, speed limits and pedestrian/bicycle safety improvements along Prairie Avenue from Montgomery Avenue to Belmont Road,
- Neighborhood Traffic Study Area 7, bounded by Ogden Avenue, Warren Avenue, Lee Avenue and Belmont Road.

An Ordinance will be drafted based on Village Council direction

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2021-2023 include *Top Quality Infrastructure* and *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY21 Budget has sufficient funding to pay for changes to signage and any temporary improvements. The Proposed FY22 Budget includes funding for permanent improvements such as refuge islands, medians and bump-outs.

RECOMMENDATION

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION

This item was discussed at the October 19, 2021 Village Council Meeting.

The motion will direct staff to make the following improvements to Prairie Avenue:

- Install curb extensions (bump outs) for pedestrian safety at the crosswalks across Prairie Avenue at Woodward Avenue, Stonewall Avenue, and Lee Avenue.
- Maintain the existing parking along the south curb line of Prairie Avenue, in the existing locations, between Belmont Road and Montgomery Avenue.
- Install shared lane markings (sharrows) in the vehicle lanes between Belmont Road and Lee Avenue.
- Extend the school zone speed limit for Puffer School along Prairie Avenue from Belmont Road to Pershing Avenue.
- Install temporary speed feedback signs in both directions on Prairie Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Belmont Road.
- Install programmable signal heads for westbound traffic on the existing traffic signal at Belmont Road and Prairie Avenue (needs DuPage County approval).

Staff recommends approval on the November 2, 2021 Active Agenda.

BACKGROUND

West Prairie Avenue Corridor Plan

At the Village Council meeting on October 12, 2021, staff presented a plan to install various traffic controls and pedestrian safety enhancements along Prairie Avenue from Belmont to Main. This plan includes:

- Reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.
- Installing all-way stop control at the intersections of Lee Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Saratoga Avenue
- Installing pedestrian crossings with refuge islands at the intersections of Lee, Oakwood, Seeley Avenue and Stonewall Avenue
- Eliminating the on-street parking on the south side of Prairie from Belmont to Montgomery
- Installing dedicated bicycle lanes from Belmont to Lee
- Installing “sharrows” on the pavement within the vehicle lanes from Lee to Main.

At the meeting on October 12th, the Village Council requested that staff prepare options that would:

- Retain on-street parking from Belmont to Montgomery while providing for marked bicycle facilities (dedicated bike lanes or “sharrows”)
- Reduce vehicle speeds and enhance pedestrian safety from Belmont to Lee, including the consideration of additional stop signs

Retaining On-Street Parking while Providing for Marked Bicycle Facilities

Currently, on-street parking is permitted on the south side of Prairie from Belmont to Montgomery in striped parking boxes.

On-street parking and marked bicycle facilities can be installed from Belmont to Lee. In this case, parking would continue to be permitted on the south side in striped parking boxes. “Sharrows” would be installed within the vehicle travel lanes in both directions.

On-street parking and marked bicycle facilities cannot both be installed from Lee to Montgomery. Striped on-street parking boxes can be retained, however, there would be insufficient space for “sharrows.” Alternatively, “sharrows” could be installed within the travel lanes in both directions, but no on-street parking would be permitted.

In all the areas where on-street parking boxes are retained, the pedestrian crosswalks would be improved with bump-outs (curb extensions) as opposed to center medians with refuge islands. See the attached exhibit for an example of what this might look like.

Reduce Vehicle Speeds and Enhance Pedestrian Safety from Belmont to Lee

Staff recommends the following as first steps to reducing traffic speeds along this stretch of Prairie and making safer pedestrian crossing opportunities:

- Installation of center medians or bump-outs (curb extensions) with marked pedestrian crossings at Woodward and Stonewall
- Permanent speed feedback monitors in both the east and westbound directions between Belmont and Woodward
- Install programmable signal heads at the westbound Belmont signal, to reduce the instances of drivers speeding to catch a green light (DuPage County approval is required)

An all-way stop sign could be placed at either Stonewall Avenue or Woodward Avenue. However, since neither street has a significant traffic volume, there could be a high degree of non-compliance.

Neighborhood Traffic Study Area 7

In 2010, the Village began a process of studying traffic on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. The most recent study (see attached) focused on Area 7, which is bounded by Belmont Road on the west, Ogden Avenue on the north, Lee Avenue on the east, and Warren Avenue on the south. In early 2020, KLOA, Inc. was selected as the consultant to perform this study and work began. Due to the pandemic, work was placed on hold and restarted in early 2021.

In September 2021, the Transportation and Parking Commission (TaP) reviewed the Neighborhood Traffic Study Area 7 report. The purpose of the study is to address traffic issues on a neighborhood basis to improve safety. The area was selected based on resident concerns of speeding, cut-through traffic and conflicts between pedestrian and motorists, arising from having a mix of uses including residential, commercial, grade schools, and public parks.

The scope of the study included an inventory of existing conditions and significant data collection, which occurred during the spring of 2021 and included:

- Existing land uses
- Physical operating characteristics of the roadways (e.g. lanes, speed limits, etc.)
- Existing traffic control devices
- Existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Existing daily traffic volumes and vehicles speeds
- Existing peak hour vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle counts for certain intersections

The study includes recommendations that are categorized depending upon their relative ease of implementation and cost. The Transportation and Parking Commission voted unanimously to approve the study's recommendations. Currently, four existing intersections within the study area have no traffic control, and four intersections have only yield sign control. Under the recommended plan, all non-signalized intersections will be under some form of stop control.

The specific amendments include stop signs at the following intersections:

Change	Intersection
Convert Two-Way Stop to All-Way Stop	Prairie Avenue at Lee Avenue
	Grant Street at Lee Avenue
Replace Yield Sign with Stop Control	Grant Street at Pershing Avenue
	Pershing Avenue at Warren Avenue
	Woodward Avenue at Warren Avenue
	Stonewall Avenue at Warren Avenue

Replace No Control with Stop Control	Chicago Avenue at Pershing Avenue (North)
	Chicago Avenue at Pershing Avenue (South)
	Grant Street at Cornell Avenue
	Chicago Avenue at Woodward Avenue

Implementation

Installation of signage can be performed by Public Works forces within a few weeks of Village Council approval. Striping improvements will be performed as part of future projects, or under the Village's striping maintenance contract as budget allows. Improvements such as pedestrian refuge islands and curb extensions will be performed as part of future capital projects within the area. Work on Prairie Avenue will be performed as part of a larger resurfacing project, likely in FY22.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit

Neighborhood Traffic Study 7

Draft Meeting Minutes – TAP Commission September 22, 2021

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY

INITIATED: Public Works DATE: November 2, 2021
(Name)

RECOMMENDATION FROM: _____ FILE REF: _____
(Board or Department)

NATURE OF ACTION:

STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:

- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Motion
- Other

Motion to direct staff to make improvements to Prairie Avenue as outlined in the update and recommendation section of the staff report.



SUMMARY OF ITEM:

Adoption of this motion shall direct staff to make improvements to Prairie Avenue as outlined in the update and recommendation section of the staff report.

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:
