TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA

Date: October 12, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers – Village Hall
801 Burlington Avenue

I.	Call To Order
II.	Roll Call
III.	Approval of September 14, 2016 TaP Commission Minutes
III.	Public Comments – General Topics or Issues NOT on Tonight's Agenda

1. File # 10-16 Loomes Avenue – Parking Revisions

Action Requested: Discussion and Recommendation to Council

Description: Staff is initiating this request, in response to resident concern with the parking on Loomes Avenue. A staff report has been prepared and letters were sent to residents in this neighborhood notifying them of the discussion. Staff is recommending this action and requesting APPROVAL from the Commission.

2. File # 11-16 Traffic Control Revisions – Yields to 2-Way Stops

Action Requested: Discussion and Recommendation to Council

Description: Staff is initiating this discussion based on the previous TAP Commission meeting and residential concerns. A discussion for input is requested and overall village wide ordinance revisions are recommended. Staff is recommending this action and requesting APPROVAL from the Commission.

IV.	Old Business
V.	Communications
VI.	Adjourn

This is a tentative regular meeting agenda that is subject to change.

DRAFT

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION
Minutes
September 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers - Village Hall
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove

Chairman Pro tem Saricks called to order the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Transportation and Parking Commission at 7:00 p.m. An explanation of the meeting's protocol followed.

Mr. Schiller led the meeting with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call followed and a quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Chairman Pro tem Saricks, Commissioners Aguzino, Carter, Schiller, Wilkinson, and Wrobel
Absent:	Chairman Stuebner
Staff Present:	Public Works Dir. Nan Newlon; Traffic Engineer Will Lorton
Public:	Mr. Phil Palczynski, 1312 Brookside, Downers Grove; Mr. Don Jankowski, 1312 Blanchard Street, Downers Grove; Mr. Lyle Cheever, 1208 Blanchard, Downers Grove, Ms. Kelly Dunne, Downers Grove.

MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2016

MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2016 MEETING WERE APPROVED ON MOTION BY MR. WROBEL, SECONDED BY MR. CARTER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-Agenda items) – None.

Public Works Dir. Newlon introduced new Traffic Engineer Will Lorton.

File #07-16 Venard Road at Brookside Lane – 2-way Stop: Mr. Lorton described the location for this case, noting it was a T-intersection and a current Yield sign exists on the east leg of Brookside Lane. Residents expressed safety concerns and requested consideration of an all-way stop at this location.

Mr. Lorton stated a four-way stop warrant was not met for this location per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, MUTCD. Staff's proposal includes three new stop signs at three intersections. In addition to changing the current yield sign to a stop sign it also includes adding stop signs at Duchess Court at Brookside Lane and at Golden Bell Court at Vernard Road, both currently uncontrolled intersections. Per Lorton, this action would help establish right of way at these intersections and increase safety in the entire area.

Commissioners were invited to provide input. Mr. Carter shared concerns about being on the interior of a reverse curve, along with a vertical curve, at Venard and Golden Bell. He believed there were visibility concerns there and questioned whether they were looked at by staff. He further asked if it was feasible to have a stop sign four feet behind the crosswalk.

Mr. Saricks confirmed with staff that there was discussion about a general policy underway to replace existing yield signs with stop signs because drivers were not paying attention to them.

Director Newlon confirm and further explained that the commission may want to consider streamlining the process by recommending a policy to replace yield signs with stop signs throughout the Village.

Following another commissioner's question about the placement of warning signs being located prior to an upcoming stop sign, Dir. Newlon explained that typically flags are placed on a new stop sign to improve visibility. If there is a sight issue approaching the sign, she added that a sign stating "Stop Sign Ahead" is placed before the actual stop sign.

The public was invited to speak.

Mr. Phil Palczynski, 1312 Brookside, Downers Grove, summarized an event that took place last fall when the sidewalk on the east side of Venard at Lazy Creek was closed for a construction project. He proceeded to explain that a crosswalk was installed, east and west, on the south side of the intersection for children to cross and to walk to school. Mr. Palczynski stated the stripes were put down and a sign was placed in the middle of the intersection, but the sign was hit at least three times, one of which he witnessed. He stated he sent the village the petition on September 8, 2015. He does not believe that changing the yield sign to a stop sign "would not help the problem." Instead, he hoped the village could install a crosswalk with striping and a stop sign, since many children were in the area. He clarified that he preferred a stop sign be placed for northbound and southbound traffic on Venard, noting northbound traffic was the worst because of the hill.

Asked what staff was doing to address the traffic flow at the location being discussed, Mr. Lorton agreed that adding a striped crosswalk and signage at the location would be a positive remediation.

Mr. Wilkinson raised concern when the traffic counts were taken and pointed out that two issues affected the intersection – traffic that was traveling to Doerhoffer and traffic traveling to Bellaire in the mornings and afternoons. Another issue included the cut-through traffic on Saratoga from Brookside to Venard to get out of the neighborhood to the east. In response, Mr. Lorton reported when the counts were taken.

Dir. Newlon also confirmed for the commissioners that traffic counts were taken using mechanical devices on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. She stated staff could continue to review the traffic again and consider traffic calming measures to reduce speed.

Mr. Phil Palczynski, 1312 Brookside, agreed speed was a concern but stated that distracted drivers and/or people not paying attention caused them to veer off the lane and into the center of the street, where the in-street sign was hit.

Mr. Saricks called for a consensus to move the recommendation forward, as it stands, with the conditions that additional investigation of traffic volume on the weekends (Saturday) be done; consider striping and signing a crosswalk if warranted; and consider other traffic calming measures be included in the investigation.

The chairman entertained a motion.

MOTION BY MR. WILKINSON TO ADOPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CONDITION THAT ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF TRAFFIC VOLUME ON THE WEEKENDS (SATURDAY) BE DONE; CONSIDER STRIPING AND SIGNING A CROSSWALK IF WARRANTED; AND CONSIDER OTHER TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN THE INVESTIGATION.

SECONDED BY MR. SCHILLER. A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 5-1 (NAY: MR. CARTER)

File # 08-16 Middaugh Avenue at Blanchard Street – 2 way Stop: Chairman Pro tem Saricks summarized this case was similar to the above case and involved replacing yield signs on northbound/southbound Middaugh with stop signs. Mr. Lorton reviewed the request briefly noting it was raised by residents interested in increasing the safety at Middaugh and Blanchard due to the number of children present. The warrants did not support having a four-way stop at the intersection. To improve communication to drivers about right-of-way, staff is recommending that the existing yield signs be replaced with stop sighs and this intersection as well as at Brookbank (north/south) at Blanchard and Jefferson and Middaugh for east/west traffic.

No comments were received from the commissioners. Chairman Pro tem Saricks opened up the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Don Jankowski, 1312 Blanchard Street, Downers Grove, stated his wife witnessed one accident at Blanchard and Middaugh and noted others have occurred. He described the blind hills that exist in the area. As a biker to the train station, he also had a close call with a driver who did not yield to the yield sign and he reported the driver to the police. He agreed a stop sign was needed. He emphasized that Blanchard was a dangerous road and it needed stop signs because plenty of children were in the area.

Mr. Lyle Cheever, 1208 Blanchard, Downers Grove, stated that Brookbank ends but it will eventually link up with Jefferson due to the development going on at Nelson Meadows.

Mr. Don Jankowski returned and commented that he was almost hit by a car where the new development was proposed. He asked to install the stop signs to the south, especially before the new development started construction.

Mr. Saricks agreed that traffic will probably increase on Blanchard once the new development comes in and that staff and the commission will have to revisit the issue again. He asked the commissioners on how to proceed with the case.

MOTION BY MR. WROBEL TO ADOPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CONDITION THAT MONITORING OF THE INTERSECTION TAKE PLACE AFTER THE STOP SIGN IS INSTSALLED AND ALSO DUE TO THE ANTICIPATED CHANGE IN TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN PATTERNS.

SECONDED BY MR. CARTER.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

File # 09-16 Sterling Road at 40th Street – 2 way Stop: Mr. Lorton summarized the case before the commissioners, noting the traffic counts did not meet the warrants for four-way stop signs, based on the volume. Staff's recommendation is to replace the yield signs at this intersection with stop signs.

Asked if future development or some traffic pattern change could be anticipated, Dir. Newlon indicated there was none, other than teardowns.

As to the warrant requirement for all-way stops, Mr. Wrobel asked staff where that requirement came from, wherein Mr. Lorton stated it was from the MUTCD, the manual on uniform traffic control devices, put out by the Federal Highway Commission. Dir. Newlon confirmed the village always followed the MUTCD even though the village was home rule municipality. She explained the village wanted its rules to be defensible in a court of law and moving counter to that made the village more liable. Justifications followed.

The public was invited to speak.

Mr. Don Jankowski, 1312 Blanchard Street, stated that a yield sign to most people is a "suggestion", while a stop sign means to "stop." He encouraged the village to put in the stop sign.

MOTION BY MR. CARTER TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION, AS PRESENTED.

SECONDED BY MR. WROBEL.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Dir. Newlon mentioned that a small neighborhood traffic study will be held in response to a petition received and will take place north of the railroad tracks and west of Belmont. The area was annexed into the village in 2012. Recalling an older petition to review sidewalks, Dir. Newlon stated the village recently approved a contract with KLOA. A short update followed on a pedestrian/bike path that the commissioners discussed some time ago.

COMMUNICATIONS – See packet for any communications.

Staff was asked to provide a list of upcoming petitions, if any. Dir. Newlon reported that one parking item was scheduled for the next meeting.

Mr. Wilkinson mentioned the recent relocation of Doggie Depot which will impact some parking dynamics. He wanted to bring it to the attention of the commissioners and staff. He also provided an update from the recent Plan Commission meeting.

ADJOURN

MR. SCHILLER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.
MR. WILKINSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Weilandt
Recording Secretary
(Transcribed from MP3 recording)

www.downers.us

COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER
630.434.CALL (2255)

CIVIC CENTER
801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4782
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
5420 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4834
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

POLICE DEPARTMENT
825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4046
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

October 3, 2016

Dear Resident/Business Owner:

Reference File #10-16:

Proposed Parking Revisions – Loomes Avenue

On *Wednesday, October 12, 2016*, the Transportation and Parking Commission will conduct a Public Meeting at the Village Hall – Council Chamber located at 801 Burlington Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

Staff will discuss the temporary parking sign installation along Loomes Avenue and if the installation will become permanent. The Commission will discuss staff's presentation and make general comments on possible future parking restrictions. Your presence and input would be appreciated as the Commission addresses this issue.

If you are unable to attend and wish to offer input, you may contact me directly at (630)434-6863 or by e-mail at wlorton@downers.us.

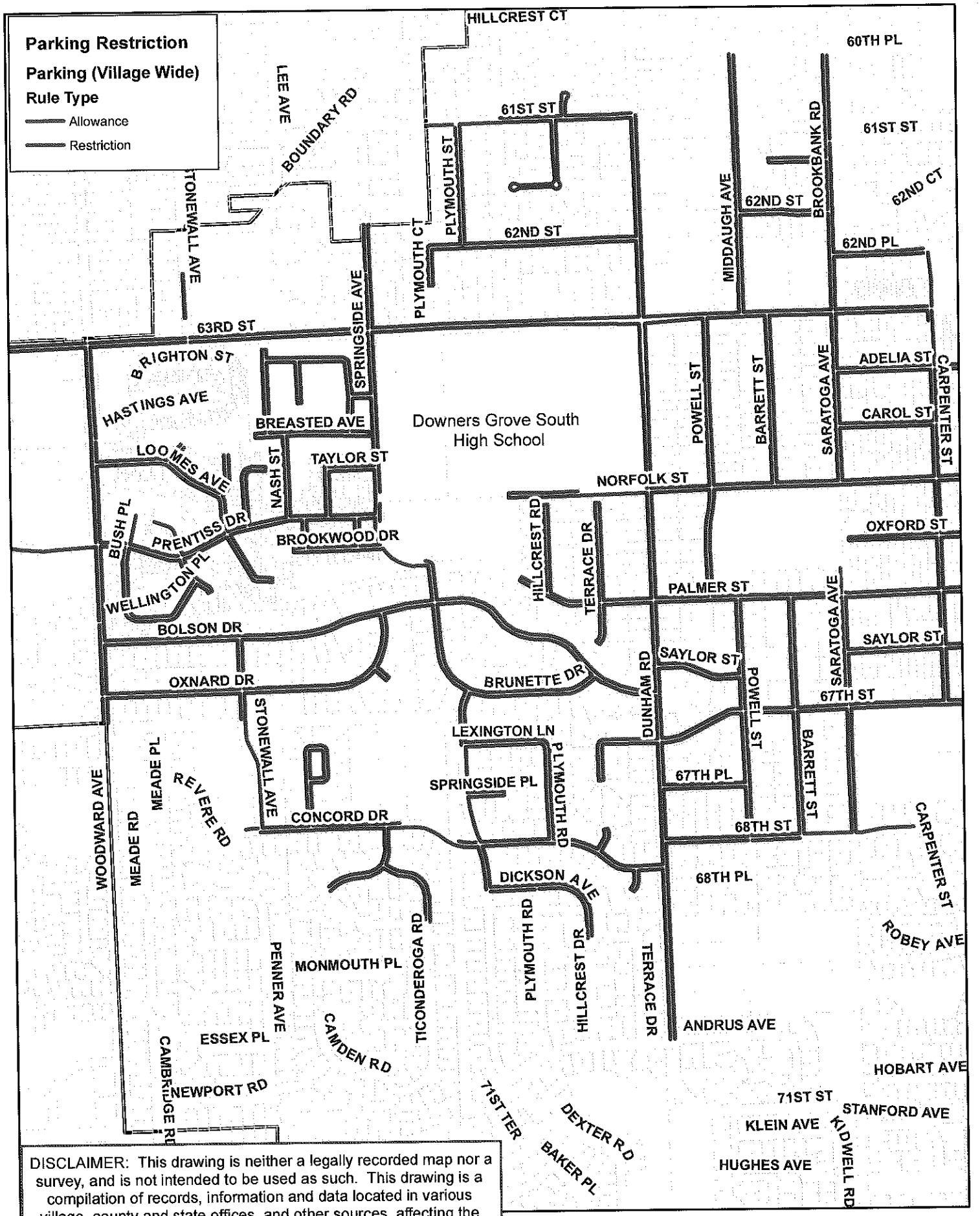
The informational packet for this meeting will be viewable on the Village of Downers Grove web page on Friday, October 7th, at the following link, http://www.downers.us/govt/boards-commissions/transportation-parking-commission, as well as at the Downers Grove Public Library's Resource Desk on the 2nd Floor.

Individuals with a disability are notified that wheelchair access is available through the Council Chambers entrance to Village Hall.

Sincerely,
Village of Downers Grove

Mr. William Lorton,
Transportation Engineer

I:\PW - ENG & TRANSPORTATION\Division - Transportation\GENERAL ISSUES_RESIDENT CALLS\2016\Loomes Ave_Res Letter.docx



DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey, and is not intended to be used as such. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data located in various village, county and state offices, and other sources, affecting the land area displayed and is to be used for reference purposes only. The Village of Downers Grove shall not be responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained. If discrepancies are found, please contact the Downers Grove Information Technology Department.

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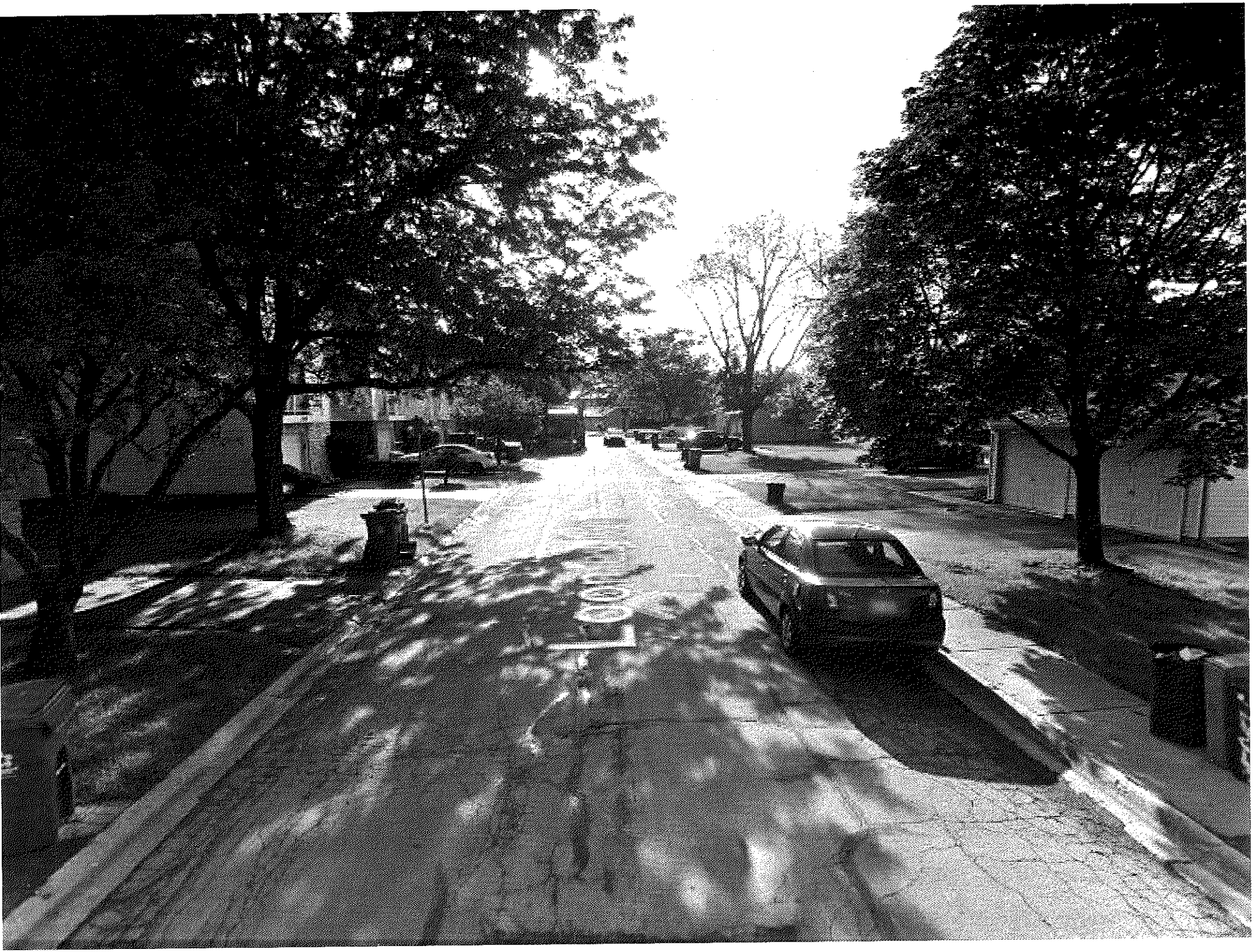

Public Works Staff Report
File # 10-16
Loomes Avenue

BACKGROUND

This item is being presented by staff in response to a resident concern with the parking on Loomes Avenue. The resident concern was that students from the high school were parking in the area and impacting residential parking. At one time there was a driveway reported as blocked by a parked vehicle. The resident had insisted that they were working on behalf of the home owners association.

Loomes Avenue is a North-South roadway classified as a local street that fluctuates between 20 and 24 feet wide. Currently there are only parking restrictions on the north side of the street. About 600 feet away from Woodward Avenue parking restrictions begin on both sides of the street.

STUDY

A resident expressed concern regarding vehicles parked by high school students and walking to Downers Grove South High School. The resident expressed they were acting on the home owners interests and that a small restriction was desired. There was additional concerns as a driveway was partially blocked at one point.

Staff reviewed this area along with the areas adjacent to Downers Grove South High School. This location is appealing to students as there are parking restrictions preventing present in the other areas surrounding Downers Grove South High School. Staff implemented a temporary restriction and had signs placed with no parking 8 am to 11 am to minimize impact to residents. This restriction creates uniformity in the area surround Downers Grove South High School.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Transportation and Parking Commission forward a positive recommendation to the Village Council that the following be implemented:

- **REVISE THE TEMPORARY ORDIANCE TO BE PERMANENT AND SIGNS TO REMAIN.**

Public Works Staff Report
File # 11-16
Ordinance Revision Yield to Stop Control

BACKGROUND

This item is being presented by staff in response to address resident concerns with the traffic control at various locations. The residents have raised concerns for noncompliance and complete disregard at locations under yield control. The Village of Downers Grove Police Officers have also provided input regarding the difficulty of enforcing yield sign violations.

RESEARCH

Previous neighborhood studies have seen a similar change where yield controlled intersections have been revised to stop control intersections. The revision would expedite this process and allow for the establishing of right of way and make the streets in the Village friendlier to inexperienced drivers. Additional communities such as Mount Prospect have done similar changes to remove yield signs and replace them with stop signs. Additional searches have shown that municipalities in other regions have also done similar changes.

Information for crash modification factors (Expected change in crashes at locations based on previous studies) suggests that yield signs are less effective at reducing crashes than stop signs. According to the Crash Modification Clearinghouse, changing from a stop control to yield control at an intersection will increases crashes by 127% for 4 leg intersections.

Staff makes the recommendation with the caveat that some yield signs are to remain where there are merge conditions that differ from a typical intersection. One such condition is Washington Street Burlington Avenue where merging traffic must yield on the north side of the raised island. Staff would also recommend that language be left in place in the event that a roundabout is ever incorporated within village limits.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Transportation and Parking Commission forward a positive recommendation to the Village Council that the following be implemented:

- **REVISE THE MAJORITY OF TRAFFIC CONTROL LOCATIONS FROM YIELD SIGNS TO STOP SIGNS.**

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

Will Lorton <wlorton@downers.us>

request to forward correspondence to Commissioners

PHILL <philpal@comcast.net> Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 6:55 PM
To: Wlorton@downers.us
Cc: "Pal, Phil" <philpal@comcast.net>, "Palczynski, Susan" <susanmpal@comcast.net>

Dear Transportation and Parking Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak yesterday regarding the intersection at Brookside Lane and Venard Drive. While I do appreciate some direction was given to the public works department to further analyze the traffic on different days, I fail to see where a large volume of traffic is what is is needed to mandate a 3 way stop. Traffic volume is not the problem here, but rather the speed of traffic traveling northbound through the intersection.

I understand after a conversation with Mr. Lorton that there are plans in the works to add street markings for replacing the delineation of the cross walk over Venard on the south side of the intersection. I would also like to see the sign replaced that sits in the center of the street on the cross walk. I noticed one such sign marks a cross walk on Washington north of the tracks on my drive north after last night's meeting.

Phil Palczynski
1312 Brookside Lane