

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: File #03-02
DATE: January 23, 2002
PREPARED BY: Bob Schiller, Assistant Director Public Works Operations
PURPOSE: Belmont Road and Prairie Avenue Regulatory Control

DISCUSSION:

On Wednesday, January 9, 2002, the Parking and Traffic Commission moved to recommend to the Village Council that westbound Prairie Avenue traffic at Belmont Road be designated as “No Turn on Red, When School Children are Present”.

ATTACHMENTS:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AT THE INTERSECTION OF BELMONT ROAD AND PRAIRIE AVENUE

Recommendation of Parking and Traffic Commission – January 9, 2002

January 9, 2002 Minutes of the Parking and Traffic Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Place this item on the Workshop Agenda for February 12, 2002 for Council review and consideration.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AT THE INTERSECTION OF BELMONT ROAD AND PRAIRIE AVENUE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by shading; deletions by ~~strikeout~~.)

SECTION 1. That Section 14-8 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

14-8. "No turn on red" intersections.

(a) On the basis of traffic investigations at the below named intersections, it is found that traffic conditions do not safely allow turns on a red light and that the following intersections should be designated as "No turn on red" intersections:

- ~~Belmont Road and Prairie Avenue, east approach only.~~
- Fairview Avenue and Lincoln Street, north and south approaches only.
- Main Street and Burlington Avenue.
- Main Street and Curtiss Street.
- Main Street and Grant Street.
- Maple Avenue and Main Street, east approach only.
- 39th Street and Fairview Avenue, west approach only.

(b) On the basis of traffic investigations at the below named intersections, it is found that traffic conditions do not safely allow turns on a red light and that vehicles facing a steady red signal shall be prohibited from turning right after stopping at all times when children are present in the vicinity of the following intersections:

- ~~Belmont Road and Prairie Avenue, east approach only.~~
- Fairview Avenue and Hill Street, south approach only.
- Fairview Avenue and Prairie Avenue, north approach only.

(Ord. No. 1765, § 4; Ord. No. 1881, § 1; Ord. No. 2063, § 3; Ord. No. 2687, § 2; Ord. No. 2843, § 3; Ord. No. 2975, §§ 3, 6.)

SECTION 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:
Published:
Attest: _____
Village Clerk

Commissioner Kren questioned if the parking violations occur during mass hours. It appears that parking occurs on Sundays and the issue is not due to the bushes.

Mr. Schiller stated that this item can be tabled until weekend observations and counts are taken. The initial study was performed during the week and there were not any apparent parking issues.

Commissioner Yeksigian requested that Mr. Schiller investigate the accident history.

COMMISSIONER KREN MOVED TO TABLE FILE #02-02 UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 13, 2002 PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Motion Carried: 7:0

NEW BUSINESS:

File #03-02 Belmont Road and Prairie Avenue Regulatory Control

Chairman Johnson summarized the Staff Report for File # 03-02.

BACKGROUND

The Village of Downers Grove is responsible for maintenance of the signalized intersection. Approval for the installation of this intersection dates back to 1976, when in P & T staff report 14-76, the Parking and Traffic Commission recommended to adopt IDOT standards to restrict parking along Prairie to adequately allow traffic queuing at this intersection. This distance was recently increased in 1996, as facilitated with P & T Staff report #19-96. In 1981, The intersection was fully signalized to include a push button pedestrian activated phase.

STUDY

Classified as an Arterial street, nearly 25,000 vehicles per day travel along Belmont Road, which is currently under the Jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. Prairie Avenue is classified as a collector street, and carries an average daily traffic volume of nearly 7,000 vehicles per day, of which approximately 2,500 vehicles are traveling westbound.

Approximately 1/3 of all westbound traffic turns right at this "T" intersection, while the remaining 2/3 turns left.

A total of 22 accidents have been reported to occur at this intersection within the last three years. When factoring the amount of traffic, an accident rate of 0.8 accidents per million entering vehicles is calculated. This is far less than the DuPage County's threshold for defining a potentially unsafe intersection, which accident threshold rate has been calculated to be anything above 2.5 accidents per million entering vehicles. In other words, analysis indicates that this intersection is operating safely.

The intersection is currently posted such that northbound traffic cannot turn on red "when school children are present". Westbound traffic is simply posted with a "No Turn on Red". Additionally, this intersection is posted with a crossing guard and is properly signed and marked along the south side of the intersection as a school cross walk. For consistency and fairness to traffic traveling westbound that will eventually turn right, Staff believes that the "No Turn on Red" should be modified to state "No Turn on Red, when School Children are Present".

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the "No Turn on Red" be changed to state "No Turn on Red, When School Children are Present". Staff will be observant of any inordinate increase in accident activity that may occur due to this regulatory change.

Chairman Johnson stated that after DuPage County completed the improvements on Belmont Road the northbound signage was posted as No Turn on Red, When Children are Present. This has created some confusion with westbound Prairie Avenue being posted as No Turn on Red. He further stated that another reason this issue was not looked at in the past was due to the request of the Puffer School crossing guard.

Mr. Schiller stated that he spoke with the Police Department and they are in agreement with changing the signage.

Commissioner Yeksigian questioned whether DuPage County has control over the intersection.

Mr. Schiller stated that the County does not control the intersection.

COMMISSIONER KREN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL THAT WESTBOUND PRAIRIE AVENUE TRAFFIC AT BELMONT ROAD BE DESIGNATED AS "NO TURN ON RED, WHEN SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE PRESENT".

COMMISSIONER WENDT SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: **AYE:** Mr. Kren, Mr. Wendt, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Thurston, Mr. Yeksigian and Chairman Johnson.

NAY: None.

Motion Carried: **7:0**

Chairman Johnson stated that this recommendation would be sent to Village Council. He said that if anyone is interested in attending the Council meeting for this item they should watch the Village Corner section of the newspaper for the Council agenda dates. He further stated that the Village Clerk could also be notified and asked when this agenda item would be brought before Council.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

COMMISSIONER KREN SECONDED THE MOTION. *Motion carried 7:0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

/cc

staff/p&t/2002/minutes/January 9, 2002