

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: File #24-02
DATE: March 24, 2003
PREPARED BY: John J. Bajor, Jr., Public Works Director
Dorin Fera, Traffic Manager
PURPOSE: To Amend Ordinance to Include Stop Signs on eastbound and westbound Prairie Avenue at Douglas Avenue.

DISCUSSION:

The Parking & Traffic Commission at its regular December 11, 2002 meeting heard the Public Works staff presentation regarding this intersection. After discussions were held and comments from attendees were received, the Parking & Traffic Commission recommended to the Village Manager a temporary traffic control installation. The existing 2-way stop control be temporarily be upgraded to a 4-way stop control, with Prairie Avenue then also required to come to a full stop before proceeding. The Village Manager approved this recommendation on December 27, 2002.

It is Staff's judgment, based upon a detailed field observation of the steady east-west volumes on Prairie Avenue, the consistent pedestrian activity at the school, and the long-standing use of the flashing red pedestrian signal, that the current temporary 4-way stop control be upgraded to a Permanent 4-way stop control installation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Recommendation of Parking and Traffic Commission – March 12, 2003

March 12, 2003 Minutes of the Parking and Traffic Commission, File #24-02 discussed on pages 2 through 4.

RECOMMENDATION:

Place this item on a future Council Workshop Agenda.



March 24, 2003

<http://www.vil.downers-grove.il.us>

MAYOR BRIAN KRAJEWSKI AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

**COMMUNITY RESPONSE
CENTER**

RE: P & T File # 24-02

**Regulatory Control at the Intersection of
Prairie Avenue and Douglas Avenue**

630.434.CALL (2255)

Dear Mayor Krajewski and Council Members:

CIVIC CENTER

801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4776
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

On Wednesday, March 12, 2003, the Parking and Traffic Commission adopted the following motion:

**COMMISSIONER YEKSIGIAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE
VILLAGE COUNCIL TO INSTALL PERMANENT FOUR WAY STOP
SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF PRAIRIE AVENUE AND DOUGLAS
AVENUE.**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION**

6701 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60516-3426
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

COMMISSIONER WENDT SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

NAY: None.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Motion Carried: 5:0

It is Staff's judgment, based upon a detailed field observation of the steady east-west volumes on Prairie Avenue, the consistent pedestrian activity at the school, and the long-standing use of the flashing red pedestrian signal, that the current temporary 4-way stop control be upgraded to a Permanent 4-way stop control installation.

**PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT**

5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4074
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

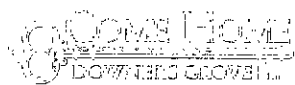
Sincerely,

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

842 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4761
630.434.5595
FAX 630.434.5599

**Ross Johnson, Chairman
Parking & Traffic Commission
VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

RJ/cc



OLD BUSINESS

File #24-02 Prairie Avenue and Douglas Avenue Intersection Update

BACKGROUND

The Parking & Traffic Commission at its regular December 11, 2002 meeting heard the Public Works staff presentation regarding this intersection. After discussions were held and comments from attendees were received, the Parking & Traffic Commission recommended to the Village Manager a temporary traffic control installation. The existing 2-way STOP control be temporarily be upgraded to a 4-way STOP control, with Prairie Avenue then also required to come to a full stop before proceeding. The Village Manager approved this recommendation on December 27, 2002.

The following summary states the actions and reviews conducted by Public Works staff at this intersection.

SUMMARY

- STOP signs (on a temporary basis) on Prairie Avenue, including "4-way" plaques, and STOP Ahead signs, plus barricade-mounted warning signs stating "New STOP sign Ahead" were placed on Prairie Avenue in each direction to alert motorists. These signs were installed on January 3, 2003.
- Traffic volumes on each route were:
 - Prairie Ave - 3,200 ADT in November 2002, and 2,900 in February, 2003
 - Douglas Ave - 1,200 ADT in November 2002, and 1,020 in February, 2003.
- # Recorded Accidents (Jan 3-March 7, 2003) were 0.
- Field Observations revealed no unusual behaviors, or driver confusion during typical weekday travel periods. There have been no complaints to date received by staff regarding the 4-way STOP installation or any other problems at this location. A St. Mary's Church board member had communicated to staff that on Sundays after services, there were no particular hardships, or excessive delays for people exiting the parking lots, due to the STOP sign installation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is Staff's judgment, based upon a detailed field observation of the steady east-west volumes on Prairie Avenue, the consistent pedestrian activity at the school, and the long-standing use of the flashing red pedestrian signal, that the current temporary 4-way STOP control be upgraded to a Permanent 4-way STOP control installation.

No additional physical changes to the current signing or striping are required in the field at this intersection. Staff advises that the Parking and Traffic Commission forward a positive recommendation to the Village Council to upgrade this intersection to a Permanent 4-way STOP control.

UPGRADE THE CONVERSION OF THE CURRENT TEMPORARY STATUS OF THE 4-WAY STOP CONTROL TO A PERMANENT 4-WAY STOP CONTROL AT THE PRAIRIE AVENUE AND DOUGLAS ROAD INTERSECTION.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Fera if he had any additional comments to add to the Staff Report.

Mr. Fera replied that the temporary signage has been in place for sufficient time for motorists to be aware of it. He said that Staff has not observed any unusual traffic patterns at the intersection. He further stated that he has received positive comments from St. Mary's Church regarding the stop sign installation. The Church is pleased with the situation as it exists and would like to keep the stop signs in place.

Commissioner Wendt asked if the missing temporary stop sign discussed at the January 8, 2003 meeting had been recovered.

Mr. Fera replied that the secondary advance warning signs, which were placed on barricades, have not been recovered.

Commissioner Thurston said that vehicles on the north side of Prairie Avenue tend to park closely to the stop sign. There does not appear to be clear visibility of the stop sign for westbound Prairie Avenue traffic. This may be an enforcement issue that the Police Department could follow up on.

Sergeant Nehls replied that the Police Department enforces the No Parking restrictions.

Mr. Fera said there are two buildings on the north side of Prairie Avenue, which hold activities on a regular basis.

Commissioner Wendt asked if the roadway or curbs could be painted to better designate the No Parking Zone.

Mr. Fera replied that the Ordinance does allow for roadway and curb designation with yellow paint. This type of marking has not been utilized, as the signage appears to be effective in most areas.

COMMISSIONER YEKSIKIAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO INSTALL PERMANENT FOUR WAY STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF DOUGLAS AVENUE AND PRAIRIE AVENUE.

COMMISSIONER WENDT SECONDED THE MOTION.

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

NAY: None.

Motion Carried: 5:0

OLD BUSINESS

File #02-02 Prairie Avenue and Highland Avenue Traffic Study and Intersection Update

BACKGROUND

This location has been previously investigated by staff for the January, 2002, February, 2002, November, 2002, and the latest date of December, 2002 Parking and Traffic Commission meetings. At the last meeting following a discussion of possible design and operational alternatives, staff was directed to conduct additional engineering investigations and operational reviews at and near this intersection.

The following actions and investigations have been conducted for this meeting and are summarized below:

SUMMARY

Lowering of Prairie Avenue profile

- 1.) A detailed field survey was completed for the proposed lowering of the Prairie Avenue pavement by 2-feet to improve the intersection sight distance. In addition, the associated preliminary cost estimate was also prepared. The preliminary cost was calculated to be approximately \$215,000.
- 2.) The proposed lowering of the Prairie Avenue profile by 2-feet would cause the driveway profile of the 929 Prairie Avenue residence to be increased from 15% to approximately 25%. In practical terms, this would result in a severe driveway profile, which would not work. To complete the lowering of the Prairie Avenue pavement would then require the purchase of this residence, since the garage is attached to the house. This additional cost has not been included in the pavement work. The total improvement cost would be well over \$450,000.
- 3.) Driveway surveys and photographs were taken of the potential driveways that would also need to be lowered, and compared with similar driveways in this area of town.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ON 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 14-80 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

14-80. Isolated stop signs.

There shall be erected in conspicuous places as hereinafter designated, signs lettered with the word "Stop", which signs shall be so located as to direct vehicular traffic on the specified streets to come to a full stop before proceeding into or across the intersecting streets:

* * *

Prairie Avenue. At the northeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Prairie Avenue and Douglas Street to direct traffic proceeding easterly or westerly on Prairie Avenue to come to a full stop before proceeding across or into Douglas Street.

* * *

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

MISC\[PrairS]