



May 30, 2024

**SUBJECT: Stop Sign Highlighting – Pleasant Lane & Berkshire Ave. at Charlotte Street**  
**FROM: Mike Barbier, P.E., PTOE, Civil Engineer II**

### **Background**

It was requested that the Village Public Works Department evaluate the intersection of Pleasant Lane at Charlotte Street for Stop Sign Highlighting in accordance with the Village policy. Staff combined this intersection with Berkshire Avenue at Charlotte Street because they are mirror images of one another.

### **Analysis**

Staff found that the intersections do meet the criteria for stop sign highlighting based on the scoring mechanism within the Village's policy. This can be found in Exhibit A.

However, the traffic conditions for these 2 intersections are unique. Staff feels that it would be imprudent to classify them as 'standard Village roadways', for which the stop sign highlighting policy was created. Some of the distinct aspects include:

- a) One-way Streets from 8am – 4 pm during school days
- b) Significant signage for delineating school pick-up and drop-off zones
- c) Significant signage for "No parking, standing, stopping"

When combined with the standard School Zone signage, there is a lot of information being communicated to the drivers. Exhibit A displays the existing signage. Staff would not classify this as 'sign pollution', per se, because they all serve a purpose for school operations. However, it is possible that the existing stop signs are not prominent enough on Pleasant Lane and Berkshire Avenue. Thus, staff feels that there is justification to highlight the stop signs at these locations.

When considering the method of stop sign highlighting, we have several options. The context of the location is important in determining which treatment is optimal. Below are some of the treatments that were considered:

1. Adding flags or spinning reflective markers to stop sign – As this is adjacent to an elementary school, staff is concerned about adding aspects that may appear to be entertaining for children. It would also be mounted at a similar height to the surrounding signs, which may limit its effectiveness. Staff does not recommend this option.

2. Flashing LED stop sign – Similar to the previous treatment, we don't want to attract children's attention to the stop sign. Also, this treatment is usually reserved for high crash locations, which these intersections are not. Staff does not recommend this option.
3. Adding advanced warning signs (i.e. "Stop Sign Ahead") – Given the number of signs that already exist on Pleasant Lane and Berkshire, adding additional signage is not recommended.
4. Addition of retroreflective sign post panels to the stop sign posts – This option is recommended by staff because this treatment:
  - a. increases the visibility of the stop sign without increasing the interest of children,
  - b. provides additional reflective red material to reinforce the stop sign, and
  - c. the placement is at a different height than the existing signs. Which should help to draw the attention of drivers, even in this heavily signed area.

This treatment has been used throughout the Village, most recently at the intersection of Grace Street at Madison Street.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Public Safety and Transportation Committee support the installation reflective sign post panels on the stop signs for eastbound and westbound traffic on both Pleasant Lane and Berkshire Avenue. Staff further recommends that the Committee support the installation of R1-3P plaques ("ALL WAY") to all 3 stop signs at Pleasant Lane at Charlotte Street, these plaques are already installed on all 3 stop signs at Berkshire at Charlotte Street. These recommendations are consistent with the Village of Lombard's Stop Sign Highlighting Policy.

Example of recommendation:



## Pleasant Lane & Berkshire Avenue at Charlotte Street Stop Sign Highlighting (May 2024)

1. Crash Experience

1 crash in vicinity from Jan 1, 2021 to May 14, 2024 (40 Month span)

Crash was not intersection related.

**0 crashes = 0 points**

2. Distance from School

Adjacent to Pleasant Lane Elementary School

**5 Point**

3. Intersection Spacing

1 block from preceding intersection

**0 Points**

4. Unusual Conditions

a. Adjacent to Pleasant Lane Elementary School and a few blocks from Terrace View Park.

b. Is a one-way street during school days 8am – 4pm

c. Has a lot of signs related to the school drop-offs

d. One block east of an arterial roadway (Main Street)

**10 Points**

**Total Points**

Category	Score
Crash Experience	0
Proximity to School	5
Intersection Spacing	0
Unusual Conditions	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

Stop Sign Highlighting treatment shall be considered at locations that obtain a minimum of 40 points.

**RESULT:** These intersections do not meet the criteria based on the Village policy.



Pleasant Lane & Berkshire Avenue – Main Street to Garfield Street

Exhibit B – Existing Street Signs

Legistar: 240195  
Exhibit B – Existing Signs