



To: Chairperson and Transportation and Safety Committee
From: Frank Kalisik, Civil Engineer II *FK*
Through: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CJ*
Date: March 2, 2011
Subject: Traffic Concerns near Hammerschmidt School

For Discussion Only

A February 11, 2011 correspondence concerning several related traffic issues is attached. Specific traffic concerns identified in the correspondence, besides the Charlotte Street Parking Restriction Adjustment already discussed in a previous agenda item, are the installation of stops signs and crosswalks, implementation of one-way traffic on Stewart Street between Madison and New Streets, and restricting parking on all roads in the vicinity of the school.

These items are being presented for discussion only. Staff is requesting direction from the Transportation and Safety Committee as several of these issues were previously discussed at the committee level.

cc: William Ware; District 6

From: Robert Biddle [rbtbid@aol.com]

> Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 10:51 AM

> To: Ware, William

> Cc: Wilson, Zachary; giagnariok@villageoflombard.org

> Subject: Parking and traffic flow issues

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> Dear Trustee Ware:

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> We need the help of Traffic and Safety to address parking issues on the 700 block of S. Charlotte as today's episode again brought the problems to light. At least this time it is documented with a police report...2011-0211-5019 by the Community Service Officer who offered great help this morning. I have also cc'd the chair and co-chair of Traffic and Safety Committee to get this added to their future discussions.

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> Parking by high school students has created ongoing issues for many years at the northeast corner of Charlotte and Harrison. This corner on the southbound Charlotte side is a bus stop for the Westlake Middle School route in morning and eastbound Harrison side is the stop in the afternoon. Today the school bus as well as the Waste Management garbage truck could not get through the intersection due to cars parked on both sides of the street. The bus was forced to wait over 20 minutes for police assistance thus making the kids late to school. The solution was having the bus back up the entire block to Harding given the intersection was impassable. The CSO planned to contact the high school to get the students to move the cars. Some of the problem can be attributed to snow piles but even without snow, vehicle parking on both sides of the street as well as within feet of the bus stop make for a very dangerous situation. A simple solution would be no parking on first few hundred feet of the west side of Charlotte on school days as well as enhanced enforcement of parking regulations (fire hydrant, crosswalk, etc) in the immediate area.

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> Another issue relative to traffic safety in this area has to do with the ongoing problems around Hammerschmidt School during drop-off and pick-up times. I am convinced that if better traffic control was in place on surrounding streets we would see fewer traffic issues and more kids walking to and from school. One of the key reasons so many kids are driven to school is that crossing many of the streets in the immediate area is simply too dangerous. A couple viable solutions to discuss and consider:

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> -Instead of intersections along Harris and Harding between Grace and Main Street protected with four way or even two ways stops and crosswalks we have a high volume of through traffic and only yield signs on the north/south streets. There have been numerous accidents over the years and too many close calls to count...luckily with no injury to pedestrians thus far.

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> -Improve school hours traffic flow around Hammerschmidt School by making Stewart Street a one-way heading south from Madison to Harrison and New Street one way heading west thus making a mandated clockwise traffic flow around the school. This would complement the already northbound one-way on Hammerschmidt as well as the no left turn restriction from New Street to southbound Hammerschmidt.

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> -Restrict and enforce parking/waiting to only one side of the street on all roads in the immediate vicinity of the school.

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> These traffic and parking issues have been going on for many years and fully appreciate that only so much can be done as you cannot easily regulate common sense (or lack thereof it seems). Thanks for helping as best you can by at least getting discussions going towards viable solutions.

>

> Regards,

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> Bob Biddle

> 821 S Charlotte

> 630 916 6261