



100161



## LOMBARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: March 4, 2010

To: Transportation & Safety Committee

From: Ray Byrne - Chief of Police

Re: **Parkside Avenue / Main Street Commuter Pedestrian Traffic**

### Introduction

In response to the concerns of a resident, the police department has been asked to review the safety of Parkside Avenue near Park as it relates to the safety of pedestrians, particularly during the evening rush hour. In response these concerns, the police department instituted an extra patrol of the area during the evening rush hour commute, and also assigned the Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) to monitor the area to determine the extent of the problem and recommend possible solutions. President Mueller also personally visited the area.

During this directed patrol period, officers issued a total of two citations for speeding. Overall however, speeding vehicles were not observed to be a pervasive problem. Two additional areas of concern were observed however. The first was the violations committed by pedestrians such as not crossing at designated crosswalks or crossing against red traffic control signals. The second was the double parking of vehicles on Parkside by motorists waiting to pick up arriving commuters. This tends to narrow the roadway for vehicles and can obscure the sight of drivers and pedestrians alike.

### Traffic Crash Analysis

I requested Officer Joe Grage of our Traffic Safety Unit to research traffic crash data for this location for the last three years. Officer Grage retrieved data for the time period of January 1, 2007 through February 11, 2010. There have only been three (3) traffic crashes in this area and applicable time frame in a little over three years. *Most notably, none of the accidents involved a pedestrian, an injury or speed as a contributing factor.* They involved improper maneuvers such as backing out of a parking stall or passing a slowed vehicle.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

While there are certainly some areas of visibility and enforcement that can be improved, overall this area is not viewed as inherently dangerous based on crash statistics over three years and personal observations. Like any area during a commuter rush hour, it does experience a heavy concentration of vehicular and pedestrian traffic as trains arrive at the depot for short periods of time. With that background, the police department does offer the following recommendations to improve safety and visibility in this area:

- Re-painting of all crosswalks and pavement markings. These have become faded in some areas.
- Posting additional signage to indicate pedestrian crossings.
- Enforce violations for double parking which can lead to sight distance problems for both motorists and pedestrians.
- Continued visibility and enforcement of all applicable traffic and pedestrian crossing laws by police personnel. No recommendation is made as to the speed limit, since it is already posted as 25 MPH and speed does not appear to be a factor in traffic crashes.
- An educational campaign about safe and lawful pedestrian crossing laws conducted in conjunction with our future railroad crossing safety enforcement campaigns. This would target commuters as they leave the depot and head to the public roadways in the area.

If the Committee should have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Chief Dane Cuny or myself.

cc: William J. Mueller, Village President  
David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager