



080206

To: Chairperson and Transportation and Safety Committee
Through: David P. Gorman, P.E., Acting Director of Public Works *DAG*
From: Frank Kalisik, Civil Engineer *FK*
Date: March 7, 2008
Subject: Parkside Avenue and St. Charles Road - No Right Turns on Red Traffic Signals Modification

Mr. Dick Palmby has suggested that the existing "No Right Turn on Red between the Hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m." signs at both westbound Parkside Avenue and eastbound St. Charles Road at Main Street are counterproductive to conserving gasoline and preventing pollution when no pedestrians are present.

The purpose of the existing turning restrictions was to prevent pedestrian-vehicle interactions rather than to reduce traffic congestion or vehicle-vehicle accidents. Staff acknowledges that enforcement of the existing turning restrictions is dependent upon knowledge of time by both vehicle operator and enforcement officer. The regulated times only consider pedestrian traffic caused by rush hour train ridership and not on-going pedestrian traffic caused by downtown shoppers. Prohibiting a right turn on red when pedestrians are present at any time of the day or night would better prevent pedestrian-vehicular incidents, be more easily enforceable, and perpetuate traffic flow with minimal environmental impact.

Staff recommends modifying the Traffic Code as described below.

The following sections of the traffic code require an ordinance:
Schedule XIII – Right Turns on Red Traffic Signals

Delete: e) eastbound traffic on St. Charles Road shall not turn right on red onto Main Street between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Add: e) eastbound traffic on St. Charles Road shall not turn right on red onto Main Street when pedestrians are present.

Delete: i) westbound traffic on Parkside Avenue shall not turn right on red onto Main Street between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Add: i) westbound traffic on Parkside Avenue shall not turn right on red onto Main Street when pedestrians are present.

cc: Greg Gron, District 1 Trustee
Dana Moreau, District 4 Trustee
Dick Palmby, Dickpalmby@aol.com