



Naperville

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Request for Right-Turn Restrictions
Naperville Heights Neighborhood

TYPE OF VOTE: Simple Majority

ACTION REQUESTED:

Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board and staff and deny the request to establish right-turn restrictions on Washington Street at 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Avenues.

BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW:

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommended denial of the right-turn restrictions on September 15, 2012. (9-1)

COUNCIL ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN:

| Date | Item No. | Action |
|------|----------|--------|
| | | |

DEPARTMENT: TED Business Group

SUBMITTED BY: Caitlin Marcon, Project Manager

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

In September 2011, the City of Naperville received a resident request regarding cut-through traffic in the Naperville Heights neighborhood in which southbound vehicles on Washington Street turn right onto 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Avenues in order to avoid the traffic queue at the signalized intersection of Washington Street and Ogden Avenue during the evening commute. The complaint also mentioned speeding and stop sign compliance issues in this same neighborhood.

DISCUSSION:

City staff conducted an initial cut-through study and speed study in Naperville Heights. A summary of the data collected, and the staff recommendation is outlined below.

Summary of Requested Turn Restrictions

This request involves establishing and enforcing 2-hour right-turn restrictions on Washington Street between 10th Avenue and 14th Avenue. The restrictions would be enforced from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Signs would be installed at the southwest corners of Washington Street and 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Avenues (5 signs).

Cut-Through Study and Speed Study Analysis

The cut-through study was performed on Thursday, November 17, 2011; the results were inconclusive due to loss of daylight in the evening hours. Staff also performed a speed study on 11th, 12th and 13th Avenues finding an average 85th percentile speed of 26 MPH. Since the posted speed limit is 25, the study results demonstrate speeding is a non-issue on these streets¹.

On Wednesday, June 13, 2012, a follow-up cut-through study was performed between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., which resulted in the following conclusions:

- A total of 261 vehicles were observed to make a right-turn from southbound Washington Street onto 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Avenues. Of those vehicles, 135 or 52% were found to be cut-through vehicles, while 126 are thought to be residents or visitors of Naperville Heights. This is determined by the amount of time it takes a given vehicle to enter the neighborhood off of Washington and exit onto Ogden. In the case of Naperville Heights, any vehicles taking less than 4 minutes to exit onto Ogden would be considered a cut-through.
- The peak period was from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Following the data collection and analysis, City staff reviewed potential solutions to the cut-through issue and determined right-turn restriction on Washington Street relative to the peak hours from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. would be the most appropriate solution.

On July 25, 2012, the City hosted a Naperville Heights community meeting in order to present the data collected to affected residents and property owners and discuss the right-turn restrictions. Approximately 20 residents and property owners attended the community meeting. During the meeting it was brought to staff's attention that some neighbors perceived a speeding issue on Eagle, Webster and Main Streets. A speed study on Eagle, Webster and Main Streets was requested by the residents before the City proceeded with any changes. The speed study was subsequently completed in August 2012, and concluded a southbound 85th percentile speed of no more than 29 MPH on all three streets. Based on speed studies conducted on other Naperville local streets the 29 MPH is not considered a problem.

Resident Survey Summary

Following the community meeting, and consistent with the City's traffic request procedures, a survey was issued to affected residents in order to determine whether there is support for the proposed right-turn restrictions. Per the City's policy, if 60% or more of the survey respondents are in agreement with the proposal, a request is sent to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and City Council for their consideration.

The survey was sent to 307 property owners and tenants with properties on or between Bauer Avenue on the north, Ogden Avenue on the south, Washington Street on the east and Eagle Street

¹ The average speed for local streets in the City of Naperville is 31-32 MPH.

on the west (Attachment 1 include a copy of letter/survey). A summary of the survey responses is provided below.

| Support Traffic Request | Oppose Traffic Request | Total Survey Responses | Non-Responses | Total Surveys |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 42 | 87 | 129 | 178 | 307 |

Of the 129 responses received, 42 respondents (33%) expressed support for the proposed turn restrictions; and 87 respondents (67%) were opposed. Per the City's traffic request survey policy, non-responses are considered to be in favor of the request. Therefore, there were 221 property owners/tenants in favor of the request and 87 property owners/tenants opposed.

The Transportation Advisory Board recently reviewed the City's traffic request survey policy (see July 7, 2012 TAB meeting minutes). Based on input from TAB, a summary of both the responses and non-responses is provided above. City staff recognizes that in high response rate situations such as Naperville Heights (42%) the actual responses will be considered more significant relative to the non-responses. It should be noted that in addition to the survey questions, respondents were also provided an opportunity to provide any written comments in order to explain their support for or opposition to the request. A summary of the comments is provided in Attachment 2.

Recommendation

When evaluating potential adjustments to traffic flow in a residential area, the following factors are considered:

- Speed studies
- Cut through studies
- Stop Sign compliance
- Community comments
- Community survey
- Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

Based on a comprehensive review of traffic flow in the Naperville Heights neighborhood, the following factors have been considered relative to the requested right-turn restrictions:

- A review of speed survey data indicates speeding is not an issue on 11th, 12th and 13th Avenues or Eagle, Webster and Main Streets;
- While there is a high percentage of cut-through traffic during the evening commute, overall traffic volumes through Naperville Heights (ADT 170 vehicles per street) is low; ADT on local neighborhood streets in Naperville is anything less than 1,000 vehicles per day.
- The Naperville Police Department sent officers to Naperville Heights on three different occasions and determined that there is not a stop sign compliance issue; one citation was issued over the period of all three compliance checks.
- Of the 129 survey respondents (42% response rate), a majority (67%) of respondents are opposed to the proposed turn restrictions.

Given the factors listed above, staff does not recommend imposing turn restrictions on Washington Street. Although the City's traffic request survey policy includes non-responses as a favorable

response, staff finds the responses and comments received, in combination with the survey response rate, present a clear neighborhood response to the proposed turn restrictions.

Public input received through the survey and during the community meeting, including significant concerns about neighborhood access restrictions, is one factor used to formulate staff's recommendation. While data shows there is a high percentage of cut-through traffic during the evening commute, the low traffic volumes throughout the day and low traffic speeds all factor into staff's recommendation not to support right-turn restrictions on Washington Street.

Transportation Advisory Board

The request went before the Transportation Advisory Board on September 15, 2012. The Board voted 9-1 to deny the request (Attachment 3); Board member Collins voting in favor of the restrictions. It was noted that the survey process is one tool for determining neighborhood support of the proposed turning restrictions. However the evidence from the data collected shows that although there is a high percentage of cut-through traffic in the neighborhood, there is not a safety issue related to speed or stop sign compliance. The right-turn restriction signs were viewed by TAB as more of a burden with restricting access to residents of Naperville Heights.

RECOMMENDATION:

Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board and staff and deny the request to establish right-turn restrictions on Washington Street at 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Avenues.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Copy of Property Owner/Tenant Letter and Traffic Request Survey (distributed by the City on July 30, 2012)
2. Summary of Survey Comments
3. Draft September 15, 2012 Transportation Advisory Board meeting minutes