

**MINUTES EXCERPT
ADVISORY TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2006**

2006-134 Cumberland Drive Proposed Parking Restriction

Mr. Matich said these were parking concerns related to Cumberland Drive from Hamlin Road to Prospect Drive. Just to give a brief summary and review, on November of 2005 we received a parking complaint from an area resident living within the Cumberland Hills Subdivision. The traffic complaint was related to on street parking concerns during the school days for Cumberland Drive, south of Hamlin Road. The complainant cited several types of conflicts with Cumberland Drive ingress and egress traffic with on-street parked vehicles waiting to drop off / pick up students for Hamlin Elementary School. The problem exists when Hamlin Elementary students are present and walking within the street between parked vehicles on either side of Cumberland Drive for the boulevard entrance between Hamlin Road and Prospect Drive.

After reviewing the conditions in the field, we confirmed parked vehicles in the roadway are a chronic problem and impact the safety of Cumberland Drive during school days. The parking problems occurred during school morning and afternoon peak hour periods. We have observed several vehicles parking in designated areas that are currently prohibited under the statute of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code. This includes parking too close to crosswalk, intersection, and driveways. Also, we observed during snow days, students were more inclined to walk within the traveled portion of Cumberland Drive rather than in the grass right-of-way back of street curb.

On February 17, 2006 we met with the Cumberland Hills Homeowners Association at their annual meeting to discuss the above parking concerns for Cumberland Drive. Also, during this meeting we discussed with the HOA the possibility of constructing a 5' wide sidewalk along the east of Cumberland Drive from Hamlin Road to Prospect Drive to provide a safe refuge and separation for the Hamlin Elementary students to commute to school.

We believe there is adequate on street parking available within Cumberland Drive, located south of Prospect Drive and away from the Hamlin Road entrance and median traffic island. Therefore, Staff recommends restricting parking on both sides of Cumberland Drive during school days only between Hamlin Road and Prospect Drive. By restricting parking this will keep the intersection clear during school start and dismissal periods, and eliminate traffic conflicts with parents' drop off and pick-up for Hamlin Elementary School.

Staff requests the Traffic and Safety Board to support having the TCO PK-88 issued, and that the Board recommends the City Council approve the TCO until rescinded or superseded.

Mr. Duistermars asked what their reaction was to the sidewalk recommendation. Mr. Matich said at first they were concerned with losing parking in the roadway. As the diagram shows there is actually 29 feet on the west side of the road between the driveways where they could legally park, another 29 feet south of the driveway, as well as 77 feet on the east side. But once they realized that there are a large number of children that walk, they could see the benefit of the sidewalk to get them from Hamlin Road back into the subdivision.

Mr. Shumejko said the subdivision homeowners' association was going to approach the individual property owner and discuss some of the issues that had come up when the University Hills Subdivision had proposed putting in sidewalks. Number one, the Homeowners' Association was going to maintain the sidewalk as far as shoveling and replacement of the individual flags when required. Staff has not heard back from the Association if they have indeed contacted that owner, and what his response was to the installation of sidewalks.

Chairperson Colling asked if the parking restrictions would be No Parking, Stopping or Standing at all times, or just during school hours. Mr. Brown said on the TCO it specified from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on school days. Mr. Zendel asked for clarification of the no parking area on the map. Mr. Blackstone asked if the problem was with people parking or stopping and waiting to pick up their children from school. Mr. Shumejko said they were "standing." Mr. Brown said he drove by that area a couple of times today, and was there at dismissal time during midday and after school. There were definitely vehicles sitting there with drivers behind the wheel, and it definitely would have an impact on getting in and out of the street, particularly if you had a larger vehicle.

Chairperson Colling stated that they also encroached into the yellow areas of the map. Mr. Brown said northbound on Cumberland there were people standing, waiting to make the turn onto Hamlin Road to pick up their kids. Chairperson Colling said he had seen cars parked there, seen a child walk to the car, and the vehicle would actually make a U-turn around the median and head back down into the sub.

Mr. Hunter asked if this would be a temporary measure until the sidewalk was constructed. Mr. Shumejko and Mr. Matich responded that it would be permanent. Mr. Brown asked once those signs go up, do we have a way in place to notify the Sheriff's patrol that there has been a change in signage so for a period of time they can police that area more closely? Mr. Matich said that could be done through the three ordinance officers. Mr. Brown thought that if the signs go up and there is enforcement there will be a learning curve of a few weeks, and then people will stop parking, standing or stopping there.

Mr. Matich added that the people in the homeowners' association admitted they were also the ones who do park there at times, but they understood why the parking restrictions were proposed. They asked for time to go back and talk to the residents and let them know what was proposed, and he understood they had done that. Mr. Shumejko said the affected property owners had been sent notification of tonight's meeting, and he had only received one telephone call from a resident.

Mr. Zendel asked that when Staff had gone out to investigate the site, were the cars standing in areas currently prohibited by the motor vehicle code, in the proposed no parking areas, or both? He was told the cars were parking in both areas.

Motion by Brown to adopt Traffic Control Order PK-88.

Seconded by Buiteweg

Ayes: All

Nays: None

The motion is carried.