

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2012 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Proposed Turn Restrictions on Maple Avenue at Avery School Entrance	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Nan Newlon, P.E. Director of Public Works

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared to amend sections of the Municipal Code concerning morning and afternoon turn restrictions on Maple Avenue at the Avery Coonley School entrance. The driveway on Maple Avenue serving the school would be restricted to right-in/right-out from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on school days.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Top Quality Infrastructure* and *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the December 18, 2012 Active Agenda

BACKGROUND

At the request of Avery Coonley School, staff proposes amendments to the Municipal Code to restrict the driveway at Maple Avenue to right-in/right-out from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on school days. Staff received a letter from Avery Coonley School in August 2012 expressing concerns about traffic safety and requesting consideration of a turn restriction on Maple Avenue, into and out of their driveway, during specific hours. The geometric design of this driveway is less than ideal due to the close proximity of 55th Street, a horizontal curve on Maple Avenue, and the location of the southbound right-turn lane on Maple Avenue. Staff has observed this location on numerous dates and confirmed that there are vehicular conflicts on a regular basis at this location, especially during morning and afternoon periods when school hours coincide with street peak hours of travel.

The school has attempted to improve the situation through communications to parents requesting that they not turn left into or out of their driveway during morning drop-off and pick-up periods. This voluntary condition has only marginally improved the situation. To ensure a more safe and consistent operation staff recommends that turn restrictions at this location on Maple Avenue be implemented during the 8-9 AM and 3-5 PM time periods, coinciding with the start and end of the school day, and that appropriate signage be installed to communicate this to motorists. With the turn restrictions, the Avery School driveway would function as a right-in/right-out access point during the proposed hours. If approved, staff would continue to monitor the traffic operation along with the school personnel.

This item was presented at the November 14, 2012 Transportation and Parking Commission meeting and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed turn restrictions.

ATTACHMENTS

Meeting Minutes – TAP Commission meeting November 14, 2012.

Exhibit

Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
TURN RESTRICTIONS AT AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by shading/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 14.52.24. is hereby added to read as follows:

14.52.24. Restrictions on movements of vehicles at Avery Coonley School entrance from 8-9 a.m. and 3-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person driving or operating any automobile, truck or other vehicle proceeding northbound on Maple Avenue to turn such vehicle left so as to enter the Avery Coonley School entrance and property between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person driving or operating any automobile, truck or other vehicle while exiting the Avery Coonley School property and driveway to turn such vehicle left so as to proceed eastbound on Maple Avenue; the only permitted movement shall be a right turn southbound on Maple Avenue between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m, Monday through Friday.

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

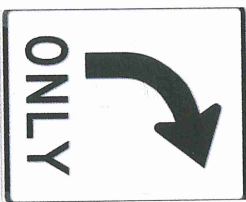
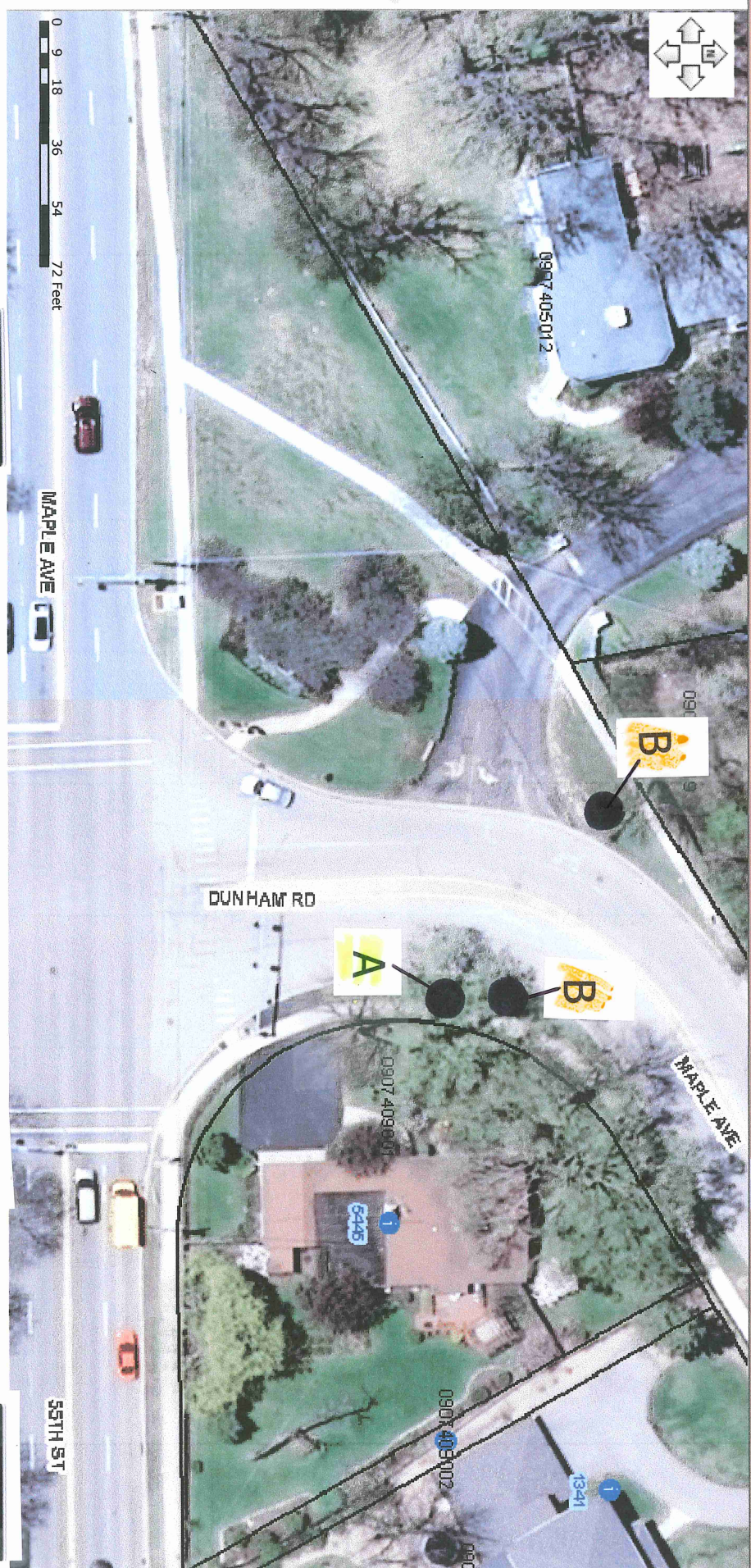
Passed:
Published:
Attest: _____
Village Clerk

Parcel Navigator

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[Village Website](#) | [H](#)



8 – 9 AM
3 – 5 PM

A



8 – 9 AM
3 – 5 PM

B



8 – 9 AM
3 – 5 PM

B

August 28, 2012

THE AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL

Ms. Nan Newlon
Director of Public Works
Village of Downers Grove
5105 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

PAUL BARTON
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Ms. Newlon,

As the school year begins, we at Avery Coonley School are again made mindful of the dangerous situation that exists at the entrance to our school located at the intersection of Maple Avenue, Dunham Road, and 55th Street. The placement of the driveway was most likely not a big concern in 1929 when the school opened, but as traffic has increased over the years so has the danger associated with entering and exiting the school's property.

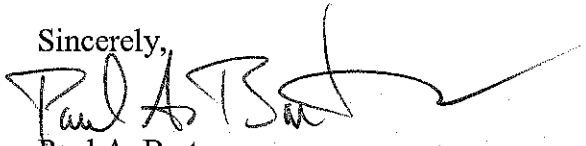
My purpose in writing you is to enlist your help in finding a solution to this dangerous situation before a tragedy occurs. For our part we have asked our parents repeatedly if they would please alter their travel to the school so that they could enter the school from westbound Maple Avenue. This request would require that the families coming from the west, and there are many of them, continue on Maple to Carpenter, turn left, proceed to Maple and turn left again. While we realize that this "solution" is not ideal, it seems like a safer alternative with the main disadvantage being a line of cars on westbound Maple. Unfortunately while some parents comply with this request, many do not and we have no way of enforcing our request.

Over the five years that I have served as Head at Avery Coonley School, I've had several parents report a "near miss" situation to me involving other cars, as well as pedestrians using the sidewalk that crosses our entry. We want to partner with the village in making sure we are doing everything we can to keep people safe.

A number of parents have asked if it would be possible to prohibit left turns into and out of our drive during morning and afternoon carpool hours - 8 to 8:45 a.m. and 3 to 3:45 p.m. We realize getting signage for this purpose would require a traffic study to determine feasibility and would like to request that such a study be initiated.

I hope we can work together to eliminate, or at least decrease, this danger to our families and students and to the general public. Please feel free to contact me at school 630/969-0800 ext.101. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Barton
Head of School

PAB:mjs

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2012

4. File # 22-12 Avery Coonley School - Turn Restrictions off of Maple Avenue. Mr. Fera addressed the growth of the area in general and called attention to the area's increased traffic over the years. Recently, staff received a letter from Avery Coonley School asking the Village to make some changes to provide better safety for the pedestrians. As a result, **Mr. Fera** explained that both the school and the Village wanted drivers' patterns to change.

To his point, **Mr. Fera** explained that he and the school leaders wanted drivers to enter the school from the east side of Maple Avenue, make a right turn into the school site to their parking space and drop off. When the drivers left the school, they would turn right out (only) and not turn left across the Maple Avenue traffic. While he believed was an inconvenience for parents and drivers coming from the west, it was for safety purposes and was it was proactive in the short-term. He referenced the exhibit in staff's packet. However, **Mr. Fera** pointed out that come spring, the current wide driveway would have to be re-stripped to better delineate an exiting right-turn lane.

Mr. Wrobel explained that he frequents the area and said two complex issues existed: first, the queue allowing the vehicles to make their right turns into the property, and second, the queue of cars coming northeast on Maple Avenue. In addition, there were the cars in normal traffic trying to make a right turn and those making a left turn into the school. He indicated that he also has seen right-in/right-out curbs which physically do not allow left turns and which could be used in the future. Lastly, **Mr. Wrobel** suggested offering a "side holding area" for the school property to allow room for those drivers who queue up, since there is no shoulder.

Mr. Saricks summarized that it was a matter of a mindset change for those who travel to the school and that the entrance drive to the school actually "begins" at Carpenter and Maple and, from that point, the street becomes a one-way access into the school, around it, and out of it.

Clarification followed on how the signage would be posted for Areas A (facing west) and B (facing south). **Police Parking Supervisor Sembach** stated he spoke to the traffic sergeant regarding staff's proposed signage, and believed it would be fine. **Mr. Saricks** also confirmed with staff the sign placement on the west side of Maple Avenue and sight lines were fine, to which **Mr. Fera** believed the locations of the signs were a good start to see what other improvements, if any, would have to be made.

The public was invited to speak. No comments received. A motion was entertained.

MS. VLCEK MADE A MOTION THAT THE TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION FORWARD A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL APPROVING THE PROPOSED TURN RESTRICTIONS ON MAPLE AVENUE FOR VEHICLES ENTERING AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL TO BE "NO LEFT TURN 8:00 AM TO 9:00 A.M. AND FROM 3:00 P.M TO 5:00 PM, AND ALSO FOR VEHICLES EXITING THE AVERY COONLEY SCHOOL DRIVEWAY TO BE "RIGHT TURN ONLY 8:00 A.M. TO 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM", AS PRESENTED.

MR. CRONIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE OF 6-0.