

September 17, 2021

Transportation Commission
Village of Oak Park
Public Works Center
201 South Boulevard
Oak Park, IL 60302

Attention: Jill Juliano

Dear Ms. Juliano and the Transportation Commission of Oak Park:

My name is Alissa Nowinski, and I writing on behalf of the 600 Block of Gunderson Avenue. The 600 Block of Gunderson Avenue, like most blocks in Oak Park, is a vibrant block with many young children playing up and down the street, friendly neighbors enjoying comradery, and families living out their dreams. When my family and I moved to this block 8 years ago, we were immediately welcomed into the Gunderson family, and to see our kids grow up with the neighbors has been amazing. The safety of our children is paramount for our block, as I am sure it is for all families in Oak Park. As parents, we do everything we can to make sure our children are able to laugh and play with their friends without the fear for their safety.

A major component of having a safe block is traffic safety. As you know, the 600 Block of Gunderson has boarders of Adams to the north and Jackson to the south. The intersection of Adams and Gunderson only has a stop sign for the traffic on Adams. Accordingly, vehicles traveling between Jackson and Madison do not have a stop sign and are free to drive without stopping between those two larger thoroughfares. Since 2018 and the Madison Street road diet, we have seen an exponential increase in the volume of traffic on Gunderson, but more troubling is the increase in speeds of those vehicles.

One of the few topics on which a lay person can give opinion testimony in court is vehicle speed. That is because it is commonly accepted that the ordinary person can appropriately gauge the speed of a moving vehicle. It is no exaggeration when I say that it is a regular daily occurrence for vehicles to travel in excess of 35, 40, and even 50 miles per hour because they do not have to stop at Adams. As Madison Avenue continues to be developed, including the new high-rise residence at Gunderson and Madison, it is almost a certainty that vehicle volume on Gunderson will increase and excessive speeding cars will pose an even greater threat to the children of Gunderson. The adults on the block, and I expect this Commission as well, would be completely remiss and entirely heartbroken if we did not petition for a traffic calming measure and one of the children on the block were struck by a speeding car.

It is the collective belief of the 600 Block of Gunderson that the most appropriate measure would be speed bumps or a speed table. Certainly, this is not a foreign concept to the Commission as almost every north/south street in the Northwest quadrant of Oak Park has speed bumps or a speed table. The other children of Oak Park deserve the same protection. Speed bumps or a speed table would pose a de minimis inconvenience to the safe drivers using Gunderson, but would be a significant deterrent for those drivers who disregard the safety of our children.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alissa Nowinski', written in a cursive style.

Alissa Nowinski