

July 7, 2022

Transportation Commission
Attn: Jill Juliano
The Village of Oak Park, Public Works Center
201 South Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302

Re: Petition for Traffic Calming Measures, 500-600 Block of South Grove Ave.

Dear Ms. Juliano,

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that traffic calming measures be considered and implemented for the 500 and 600 blocks of South Grove Avenue and near the intersections of South Grove and Adams St. / South Grove and Monroe St. (the "Block"). The Block is located just south of Madison St. and one block west of Oak Park Ave. It is a complex, multiple T-intersection street with a one-way termination at the curve in Jackson St.

Madison St. and Oak Park Ave. are of course both major thoroughfares for the Village, particularly during rush hour, and during the school year when OPRF and Fenwick High Schools are in session. During the past few years, construction on Madison St., and the street's re-design to include a bike lane, have both significantly changed – and in many cases, have slowed – traffic patterns around the intersection of Madison St. and Oak Park Ave. The Walgreens and Sugar Beet stores are also very popular shopping spots for area residents, both of which have an entrance/exit on Grove Ave.

Here are a few examples which help to illustrate the concern:

- As one example, east-bound traffic on Madison St. is often backed up between Home Ave. and East Ave due to the redesigned street. To avoid the traffic light at Madison St., and the south-bound turn onto Oak Park Ave., drivers have been turning right (south) onto Grove Ave. and left (east)

onto Adams St. as a way of short-cutting their route to south-bound Oak Park Ave. They achieve excessive speeds, particularly at the Adams St. turn, and have narrowly avoided head-on collisions with west-bound commuters described below.

- The reverse example is also problematic. West-traveling commuters, to avoid the same light, will turn left (west) from Oak Park Ave. on to Adams St. and right (north) onto Grove Ave. Many commuters fail to stop at the Grove/Adams intersection – some of them barely slow down – and continue at high speeds.
- As a final example, west-bound Jackson St. is a popular way of traveling to Harlem and to I-290. The traffic on Jackson St. has increased over the last year in response to the redesign on Madison St. Grove Ave. has become a more popular way of getting to Jackson St. since it allows a driver to avoid the traffic light at Oak Park Ave. and Jackson St.

These behaviors have significantly increased the volume of traffic on the Block. Most of these commuters travel south on Grove Ave. at excessive speeds well above the 25-mph posted limit. It often occurs during high traffic periods of the day, involving not only individuals but also delivery trucks.

The Block is home to several families, many of whom have young children who like to play in front of their homes and ride their bikes on the street. The Block has over 20 children under the age of eleven. Residents have witnessed and mentioned numerous near incidents in the past several weeks, and we fear it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. Further, the time of day when people short-cut the intersection occurs during bus pick-up and drop-off hours when numerous children are present.

We, the undersigned, feel that this problem has become urgent in the past year, and that traffic calming measures are needed immediately to maintain public safety. Additionally, we believe the upcoming construction and opening of Pete's Fresh Market at Madison St. and Oak Park Ave. will only exacerbate the situation further.

We are asking the Village to consider some combination of mitigations, including but not limited to stop signs, speed bumps, cameras, radar monitoring, or even a one-way north-bound traffic pattern. Of the available options, residents on the block have expressed verbally that a stop sign for south-bound traffic at the T-intersection of Grove Ave. and Monroe St. (500-600 block separation) would make a very positive difference. Several years ago, residents petitioned for a much-needed stop sign at the T-intersection of Grove Ave. and Adams St. (600-700 block separation) and received it.

Finally, it has come to our attention since initiating this process with our neighbors that some type of analysis may already be underway which will impact our Block. If such an analysis is indeed underway, we respectfully ask for confirmation of and a copy of that proposal in order to ensure that it is in alignment with our request. Furthermore, while we understand that the Village has a backlog of proposals to consider on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to ensure our place in the queue by submitting immediately and to underscore the urgency of this matter. We would support and appreciate temporary calming measures while the Commission determines the appropriate long-term solution.

Thank you for your consideration of our enclosed petition. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our request.

Respectfully,



Ryan White
Resident
[redacted] S. Grove Ave.
[redacted]

p.p. 

Scott Kozicki
Resident
[redacted] S. Grove Ave.
[redacted]

p.p. 

Michael Hedges
Resident
[redacted] S. Grove Ave.
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Enclosures: Petition for Traffic Calming Measures, with signatures
CC: Ofc. Michael Murphy, Zone 5 RBO