

September 21, 2021

Transportation Commission
Village of Oak Park

Dear members of the Transportation Commission:

We are submitting a petition to request traffic calming measures at 1) the intersection of Garfield Street and Home Avenue and 2) along the 900 block of Home Avenue.

Garfield Street is a key route between the 290 exit at Harlem and the village and is thus quite busy. The intersection at Home Avenue, halfway between Harlem and Oak Park Avenue, currently has stop signs. Unfortunately, many drivers in both directions ignore the stop signs, either by only a rolling stop or by not stopping at all. Police have frequently issued citations at this intersection. This intersection is in heavy usage by pedestrians who use the footbridge at Home Avenue to cross the expressway. These include many schoolchildren who cross the bridge to reach Brooks or Lincoln. The crossing is also used by staff, volunteers, and families who visit the Animal Care League. Bicyclists use the bridge as a safe alternative to Oak Park Avenue or Harlem. There is thus a high probability of a serious incident occurring at this crossing. We will also point out that the north end of the bridge, along the much less traveled stretch of Harrison Street, has much more robust signage, such as a school crossing sign and flashing lights. We strongly urge the village to adopt appropriate traffic calming measures along Garfield near this intersection.

In addition, we are concerned with the speed of vehicles traveling along Home Avenue. Home is wider than the neighboring streets and leads to the Jewel at the south end. Many cars on our street drive well above the village speed limit. We have many young children on the block and are worried their safety, as well as the safety of numerous children walking to and from the pedestrian bridge to go to school. We are requesting traffic calming measures to reduce speeds.

We, the residents of the 900 block of Home, are joined in this by the Animal Care League and by business and building owners along Garfield Street. We thank you for your consideration.
