

To the Transportation Commission and the Trustees of the Oak Park Village Board:

We are the residents of the 500 and 600 blocks of North Taylor Avenue in Oak Park. We have significant safety concerns relating to the traffic on our two blocks. Our two blocks see speeding cars, loud cars, increased traffic, and significant other safety concerns, including gun shots, which arise out of an abnormal level of traffic on our blocks. Many of these concerns are either caused by or exacerbated by the BP gas station at the northwest corner of Taylor Avenue and Chicago Avenue, which the Village has allowed to be open 24 hours a day. We ask the Village to provide a physical barrier or impediment that will sufficiently limit the traffic in our neighborhood in order to protect the quality of life here.

1. Our neighborhood. We are a neighborhood made up of single-family or 2-3 unit homes. There are many children on our blocks, as well as walkers, dog walkers, runners, and gardeners. School age children play outside on our blocks and are frequently crossing the street to visit their friends. Our neighborhood public school, Whittier, is 2 blocks away, and our children walk to and from school. It is important to us that all pedestrians are safe in our neighborhood.
2. Our Blocks are a Thoroughfare. Because there is a cul-de-sac on the 500 block of N. Humphrey, the 500 and 600 blocks of N. Taylor Avenue make up the first north-south through street west of Austin Boulevard between Augusta Street and Chicago Avenue. In addition, the BP station at Taylor and Chicago Avenue attracts much traffic through our neighborhood. As a result, we have effectively become a thoroughfare: we have an increased volume of traffic, we often see speeding cars, and cars are loudly revving their engines as they pass through our blocks.
3. Accidents. Not surprisingly, this thoroughfare has led to accidents.
4. Gun shots from passing traffic. In addition, we believe that the passing traffic has been responsible for recent gun shots in our neighborhood. On August 1st and August 18th of this year, gun shots were fired from a vehicle or vehicles in the 500 block of N. Taylor Ave. The shots on August 1st occurred after midnight, and the shots on the 18th occurred at 1:30 pm in the afternoon. On the 18th, police found five shells in the street. We believe that the increased traffic, and the traffic going to and coming from the BP gas station, has contributed to the gun shot problem.
5. Details of gas station: Police records show that the Oak Park police spend a significant amount of time dealing with issues relating to the BP station at Taylor and Chicago Avenue. At a recent neighborhood meeting with our local beat officer, Officer Eric Locke described the station as a "hot spot."
6. Quality of life affected. For all these reasons, we believe that the safety of our neighborhood, our children, and our pedestrians is at risk. Our quality of life has been

adversely affected by the thoroughfare nature of our street. For example, parents have restricted their children's outdoor activities. We need to address this issue expeditiously so that there is not a permanent effect on our neighborhood.

7. Solution. We are seeking a solution that includes a physical barrier or impediment that greatly diminishes or slows the amount of traffic through our blocks. We believe because of the unique circumstances discussed above, significant measures are warranted in order to adequately protect our quality of life.

We thank you for your consideration,

The residents of the 500 and 600 blocks of North Taylor Avenue