

Village of Oak Park  
Department of Public Works  
Administration  
**MEMORANDUM**

October 10, 2017

TO: Cara Pavlicek

CC: John P. Wielebnicki

FROM: Bill McKenna

RE: Traffic Calming Items for 1200 blocks of North Euclid, Linden, Columbian, and East Avenue from Transportation Commission

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The Village received petitions at various times from the 1200 blocks of North Euclid, Linden, Columbian, and East Avenue to request traffic calming measures. The Transportation Commission reviewed these requests over the last year and made recommendations to address the resident's concerns. These Commission meetings and subsequent recommendations were completed while at the same time the traffic calming toolbox was being developed in order to not delay responding to the residents' concerns. A summary of the timelines, residents' concerns, traffic data, and staff's and Commission's recommendations for the various blocks is attached.

Ultimately the Commission made a recommendation for treatments on these blocks which staff does not concur with. The Commission recommended the installation of speed bumps on the 1200 blocks to address the residents' concerns. Currently speed bumps are not within the Commission's ability to recommend on Village streets per the "Parking and Traffic Policies" adopted by the Board in 1998. Speed tables and bumps are also recommended by staff to not be included as eligible tools in the traffic calming toolbox.

Staff plans to bring forward an item at the November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting for a discussion of the traffic calming toolbox. The Commission and staff are requesting direction from the Village Board regarding whether speed humps, tables, raised crosswalks, and raised intersections can be included as tools for the Commission as well as direction on funding mechanisms for various calming measures.

Also as part of the November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting staff plans to bring forward an item from the Transportation Commission for recommendations for traffic calming measures on these 1200 blocks. Staff will be recommending rejecting the Commission's recommendations for these blocks and sending the items back to the Commission for review for the following reasons.

1. Speed bumps are not allowed according to current policies which prohibit speed bumps on Village streets
2. Staff does not support the inclusion of speed bumps in the traffic calming toolbox

3. The Commission's recommendations for the 1200 blocks of East Avenue and Linden Avenue differ from what was previously recommended by the Commission at prior meetings for these blocks and no notifications to the residents on these blocks was provided indicating the Commission would be considering modifying prior recommendations for traffic calming on their blocks.

By sending the items back to the Commission for review the four blocks can be adequately notified of any proposed changes on their blocks and the Commission will then have direction from the Board regarding which tools are within their ability to recommend.

## 1200 Block of North East Avenue

- **July 25, 2015** – Cul-de-sac petition for the 1200 block of North East Ave received by the Village. Concerns/reasons for the petition: volume and speed of traffic as well as cut-thru traffic on the block, North Ave business patrons parking on the block, non-residential feel of the block due to littering and loitering of non-residents.
- **September 21, 2015** – VBOT adopted ordinance on temporary one year moratorium on receiving and processing of cul-de-sac and traffic diverter petitions.
- **November 17, 2015** – traffic study data collected for 1200 North East Ave and neighboring blocks. Data collection was delayed due to 1) waiting for the school year to begin and 2) construction and utility work in the area.
- **January 2016** – item put on hold until Traffic Calming Toolbox is developed.
- **November 2016** – after numerous contact with the Village about the status of the Traffic Calming Toolbox (approximately every 1-2 months), residents requested the petition be submitted as a petition for a traffic calming device. Staff agreed to include the petition for a traffic calming device on the November 28, 2016 meeting.
- **November 28, 2016** – Transportation Commission reviewed the item and made the following recommendations: 1 – install bump-outs at the alley, 2 – install a speed table mid-block, 3 – complete a 6 month study after the installation of the temporary traffic calming devices, 1200 block of Linden to be included in the study, 4 – do speed counts in the alleys adjacent to the 1200 block of North East Ave. Staff recommended the test implementation of either a mid-block pinch-point (choker) or bump-outs. [Subsequent to the meeting, staff determined the installation of a mid-block speed table would cause significant negative impacts to Village operations. Thus it was not submitted to the Village Board but brought back to the Commission for another review and recommendation.]
- **April 24, 2017** – Transportation Commission reviewed traffic calming petitions for 1200 block of North East Ave and Linden Ave (1200 block of Linden Ave submitted petition on January 30, 2017) and made the following recommendations: 1 – support staff recommendation for bump-outs on the 1200 blocks of North East Ave and Linden Ave, 2 – increased police enforcement, 3 – look at parking on North Avenue and effectiveness of parking meters on North Avenue and North East Ave parking enforcement, 4 – conduct follow-up traffic studies on the 1200 blocks of North East Ave, Columbian Ave, Linden Ave, and North Euclid Ave. Staff recommended installing bump-outs at the east-west alley south of North Avenue for the 1200 blocks of North East Ave and Linden Ave.
- **August 21, 2017** – Transportation Commission reviewed traffic calming petitions for 1200 Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave. The Commission made the recommendation to install speed bumps or tables on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave, North Euclid Ave, Linden Ave and North East Ave. Staff recommended the installation of mid-block pinch-points (chokers) on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave.

### 1200 Block of Linden Avenue

- **January 30, 2017** – Traffic calming petition for the 1200 block of Linden Ave received by the Village. Concerns/reasons for the petition: safety concerns due to speeding traffic on the block, Linden Ave is one of two streets that have open access to North Avenue which causes cars to divert to Linden Ave for easier passage.
- **April 24, 2017** – Transportation Commission reviewed traffic calming petitions for 1200 block of North East Ave and Linden Ave and made the following recommendations: 1 – support staff recommendation for bump-outs on the 1200 blocks of North East Ave and Linden Ave, 2 – increased police enforcement, 3 – look at parking on North Avenue and effectiveness of parking meters on North Avenue and North East Ave parking enforcement, 4 – conduct follow-up traffic studies on the 1200 blocks of North East Ave, Columbian Ave, Linden Ave, and North Euclid Ave. Staff recommended installing bump-outs at the east-west alley south of North Avenue for the 1200 blocks of North East Ave and Linden Ave.
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### 1200 Block of Columbian Avenue

- **May 5, 2017** – Traffic calming petition for the 1200 block of Columbian Ave received by the Village. Concerns/reasons for the petition: vehicles traveling on block at excessive speeds, inordinately high volumes of traffic on the block, impacts on general quality of life.
- **August 21, 2017** – Transportation Commission reviewed traffic calming petitions for 1200 Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave. The Commission made the recommendation to install speed bumps or tables on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave, North Euclid Ave, Linden Ave and North East Ave. Staff recommended the installation of mid-block pinch-points (chokers) on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave.

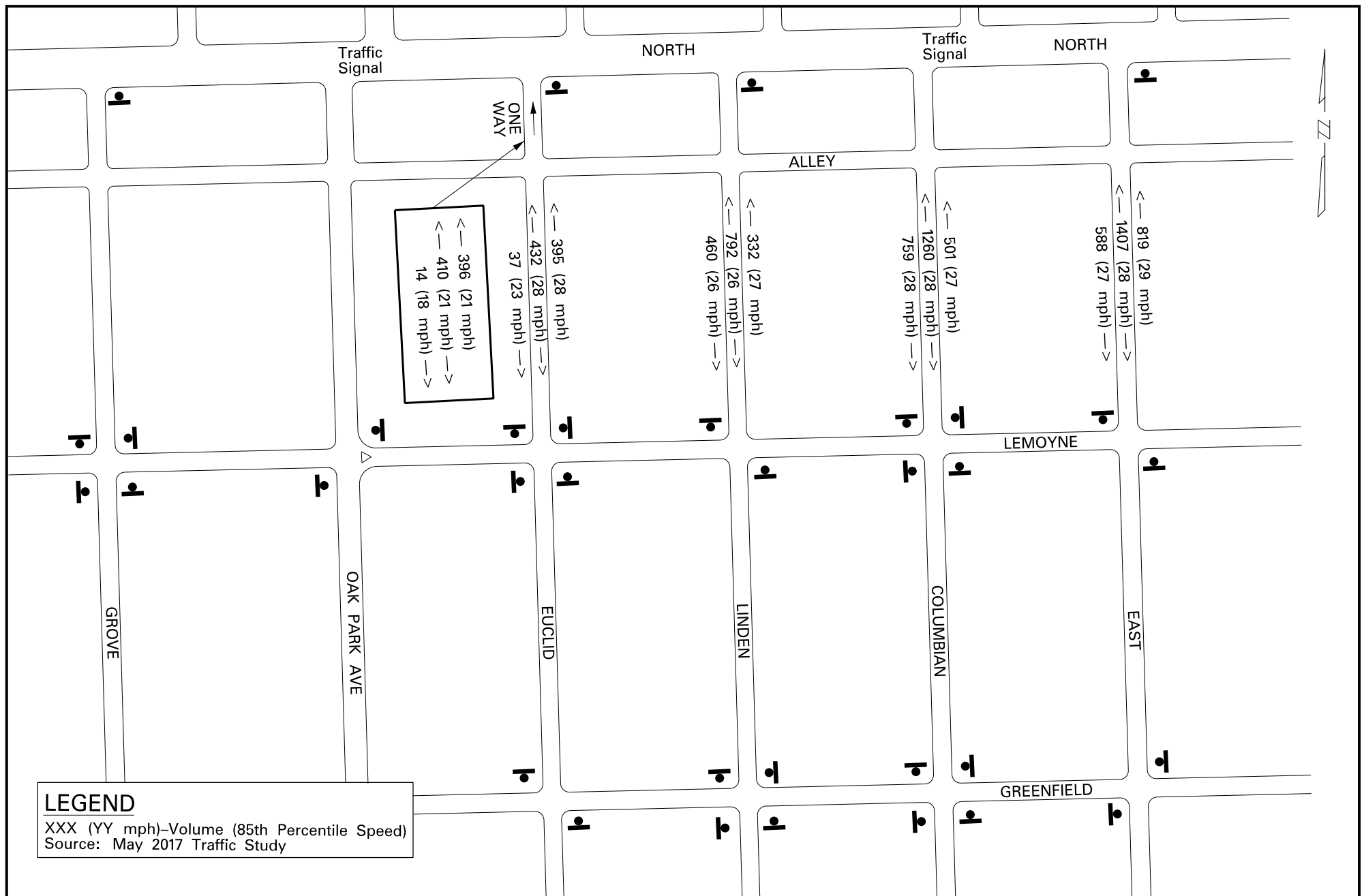
## 1200 Block of North Euclid Avenue

- **June 1, 2016** – initial contact to Engineering Division was request for cul-de-sac by residents as a result of US Bank reconstruction of branch located at 6011 North Ave (ZBA item). Residents provided staff with attachments sent to VBOT in May 2016. Concern about large volume on traffic on block, speeding vehicles, lack of parking on block, safety concerns/suspicious activities related to US Bank property, ZBA Board recommendation for wider driveway access onto Euclid Ave, increase in size/operations of branch (drive-thru only to full service branch).
- **June 8, 2016** – (after US Bank item tabled by VBOT on June 6, 2016) – staff met with residents to discuss concerns. Issues discussed: traffic is a serious issue, parking problem, non-banking activity in US Bank parking lot (see meeting summary email chain dated June 13, 2016 for detail). Residents repeated need for cul-de-sac to address issues. Staff mentioned moratorium but would collect traffic data as soon as possible to document traffic prior to the US Bank construction.
- **June 14 & 15, 2016** – traffic study data collected on the 1200 block of North Euclid Ave and neighboring blocks.
- **August 21, 2017** – Transportation Commission reviewed traffic calming petitions for 1200 Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave. The Commission made the recommendation to install speed bumps or tables on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave, North Euclid Ave, Linden Ave and North East Ave. Staff recommended the installation of mid-block pinch-points (chokers) on the 1200 blocks of Columbian Ave and North Euclid Ave.

## Traffic Study Results

Traffic Studies were conducted at various times on these blocks between 2015 and 2017. A graphical summary is attached.

- **1200 block of N East Ave** – ADT counts increased from 1,021 (2015) to 1,407 (2017) vehicles. 38% increase in 2 years. ADT was within 800 – 1,200 vehicles norm for typical residential street now 16.7% above higher boundary. 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds consistently between 28 mph and 29 mph
- **1200 block of Linden Ave** - ADT counts increased from 600 (2015) to 792 (2017) vehicles. Volume is below the lower limit of a typical residential block (800-1,200 vehicles). 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds ranged between 26 mph and 28 mph.
- **1200 block of Columbian Ave** - ADT counts basically level 1,180 (2015) to 1,260 (2017) vehicles. Note: Columbian has a traffic signal at North Ave. At upper limit of residential road ADT (800-1,200 vehicles) 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds ranged 26 mph to 28 mph.
- **1200 block of North Euclid Ave** - ADT counts ranged 465 (2016) to 432 (2017) vehicles. Note: Euclid is one way northbound from east-west alley to North Ave, thus southbound traffic is a fraction of northbound traffic. Well below lower limit of residential road ADT (800-1,200 vehicles) 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds ranged 27mph and 28 mph for northbound traffic and 22 mph and 23 mph for southbound traffic.



Engineering  
Division

Scale: 1" = Ft.

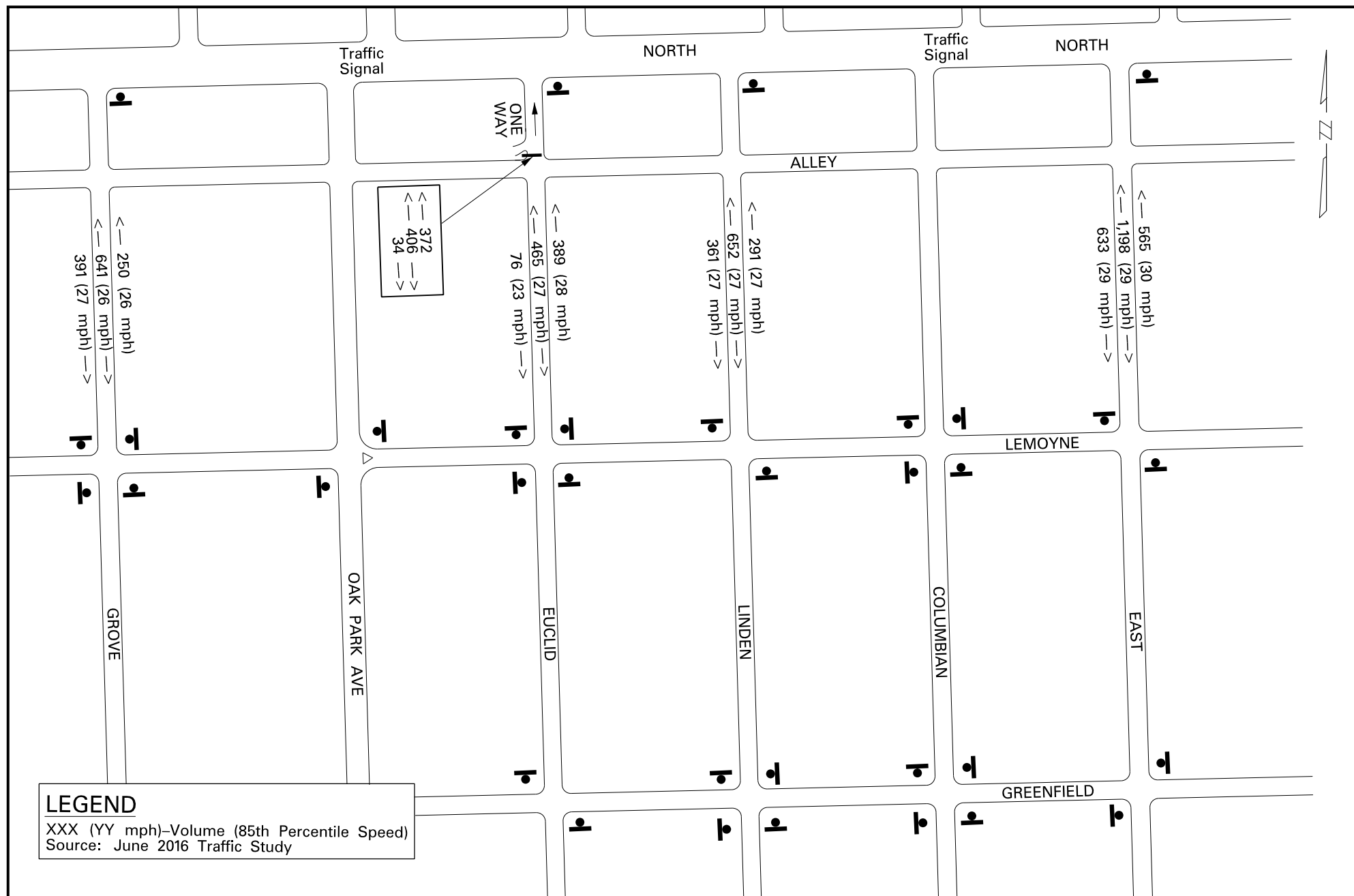
By: JAJ Date: 07/20/17

24-Hour, Speed & Volume Traffic Counts  
taken on Thursday, May 25, 2017

Filename:

1200 Block of Columbian Ave & Adjacent Blocks





### Traffic Signal

Traffic  
Signal

NORTH

NORTH

WAY

ALLEY

LEMOYNE

GREENFIELD

EAST

COLUMBIAN

LINDEN

# EUCLID

OAK PARK AVE

GROVE

## LEGEND

XXX (YY mph)–Volume (85th Percentile Speed)  
Source: June 2016 Traffic Study

# Engineering Division

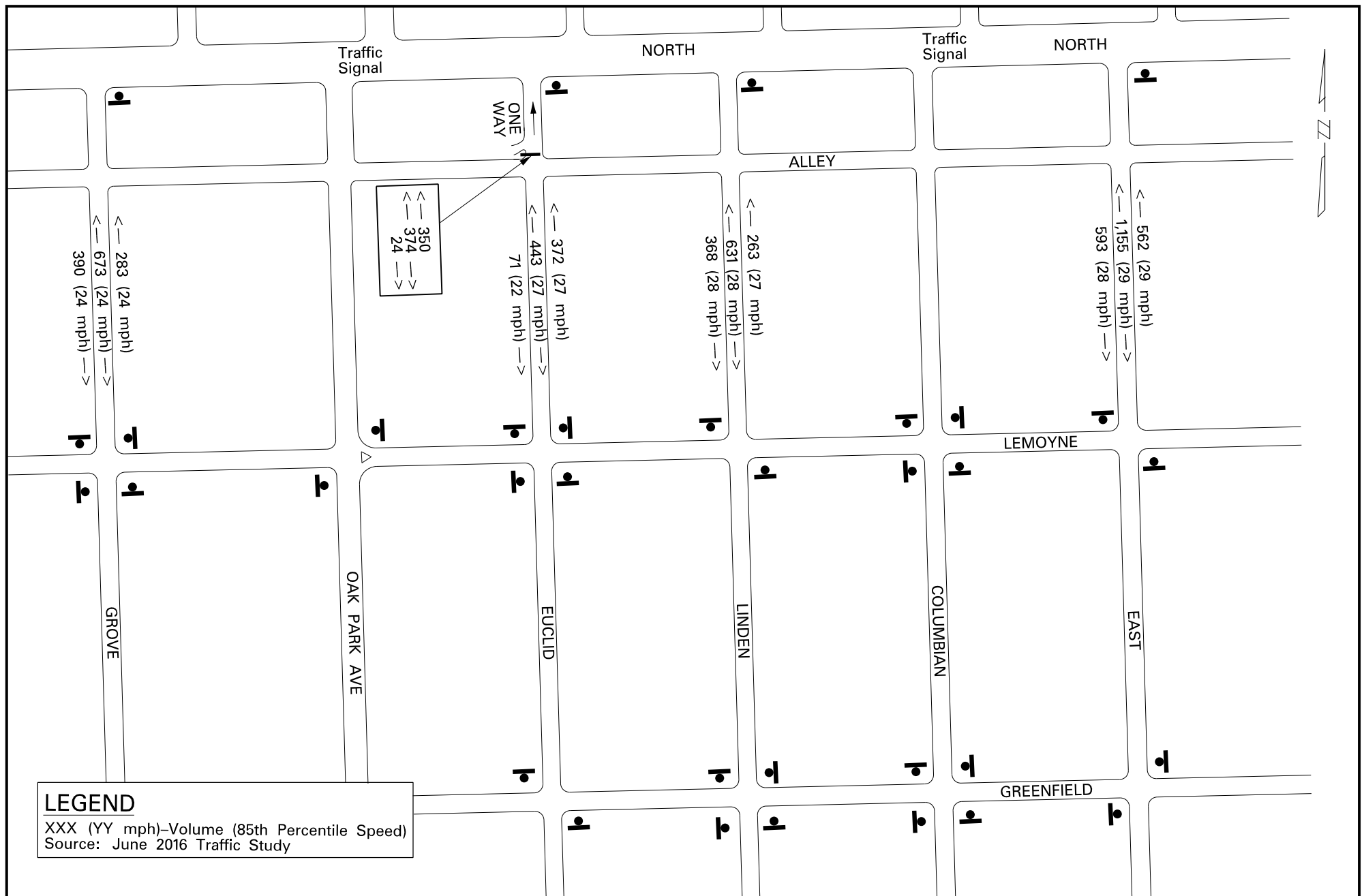
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By: JAJ Date:04/17/17

## 24-Hour, Speed & Volume Traffic Counts taken on Wednesday, June 15, 2016

## 1200 Block of North East Ave & Adjacent Blocks

Filename:



### LEGEND

XXX (YY mph)-Volume (85th Percentile Speed)  
Source: June 2016 Traffic Study

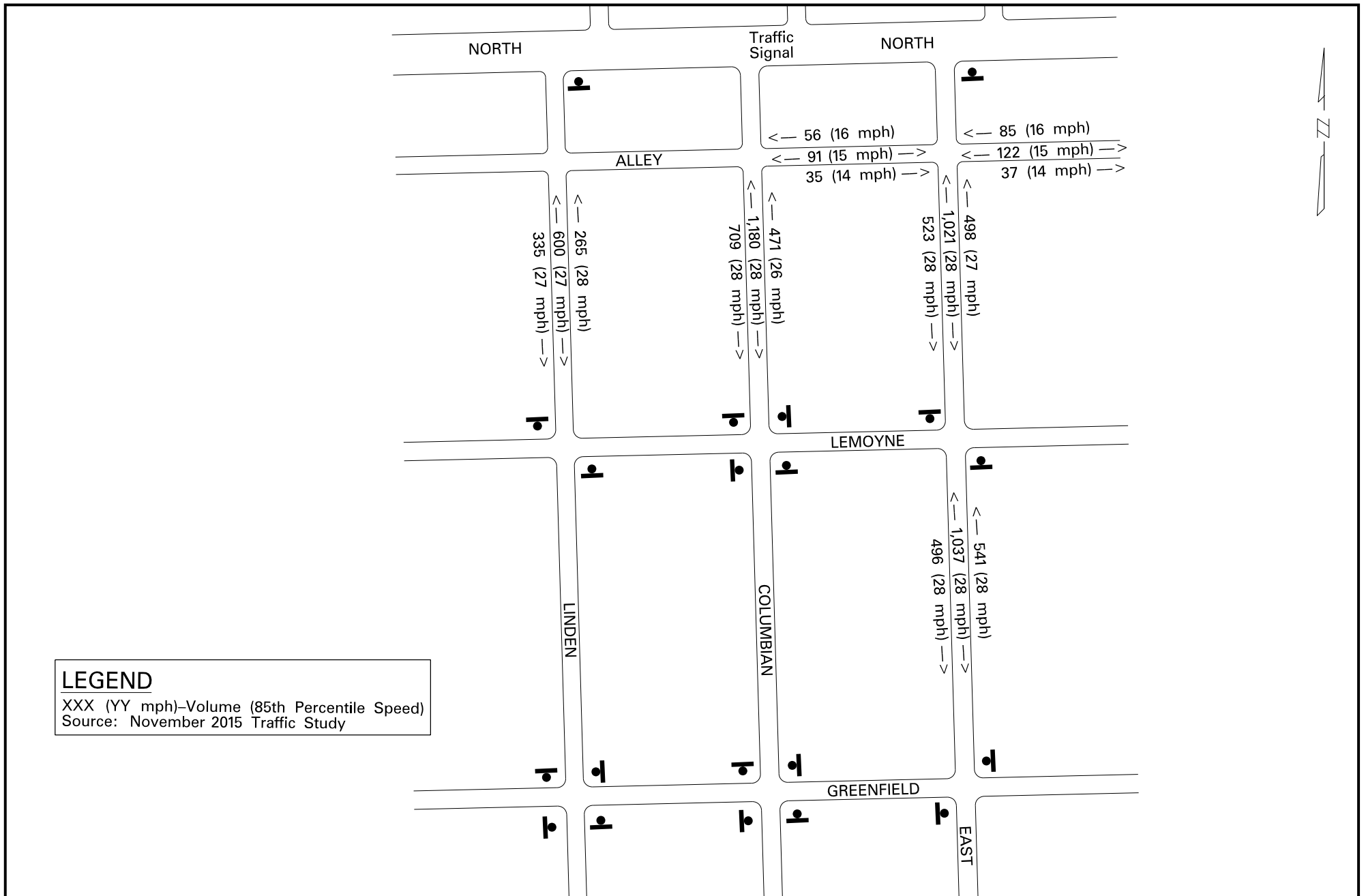
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By: JAJ Date: 04/17/17

24-Hour, Speed & Volume Traffic Counts  
taken on Tuesday, June 14, 2016  
1200 Block of North East Ave & Adjacent Blocks

Filename:



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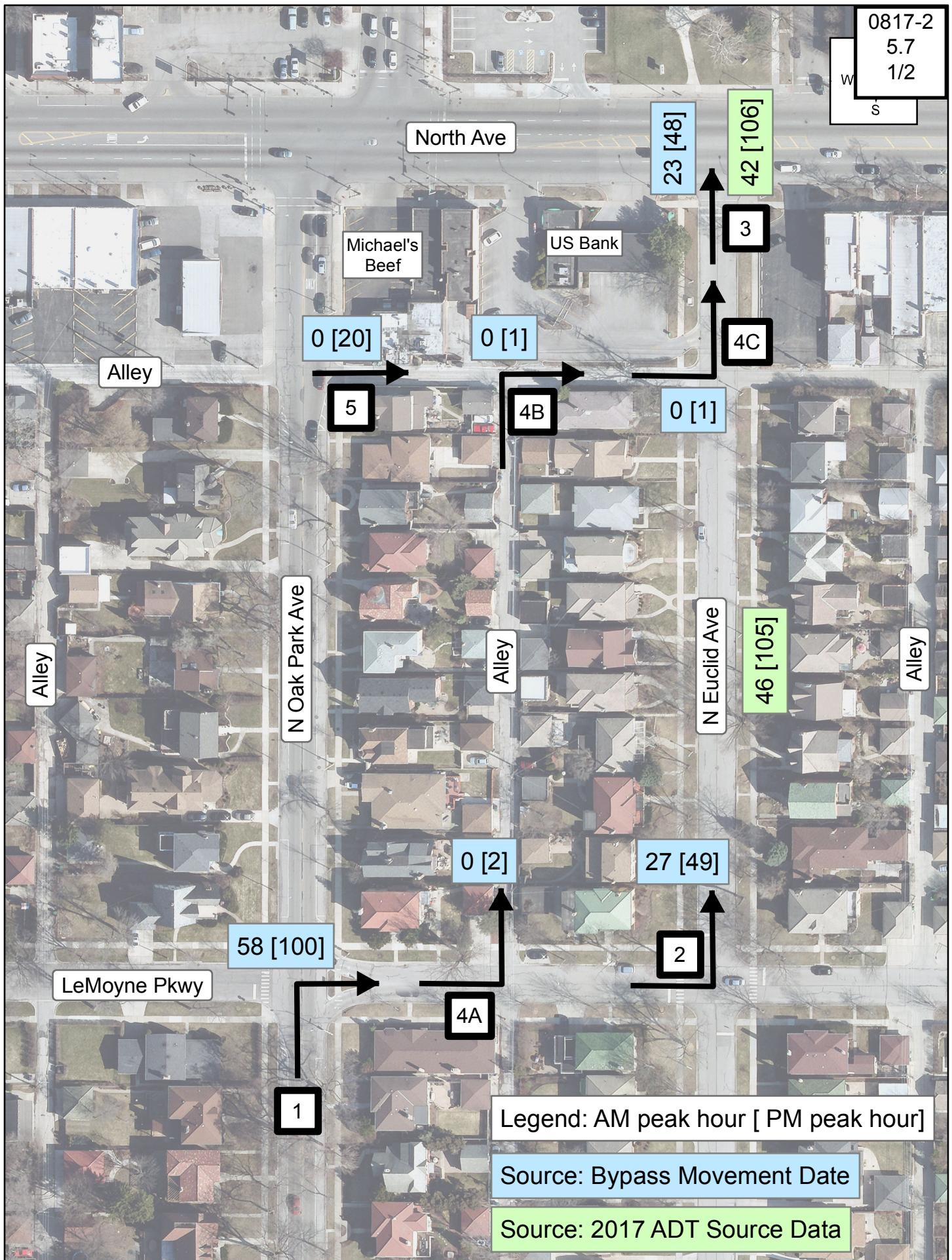
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By: JAJ Date: 11/21/16

24-Hour, Speed & Volume Traffic Counts  
 taken on Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
 1200 Block of North East Ave & Adjacent Blocks

Filename:







# Existing cul-de-sacs, diverters, one-way streets, etc. on the 1200 blocks along North Avenue in the Village of Oak Park as of June 2017



C = cul-de-sac

D = diverter

N = no access to/from North Ave

R = No Right Turn 7AM-9AM & 4PM-6PM M-F

BST = bump-out and speed table

1 = one-way northbound, north of alley

