



Washington Irving Elementary School

1125 S. Cuyler ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60304 ▪ ph: 708.524.3090 ▪ fax: 708.524.3056 ▪ www.op97.org/irving

June 18, 2018

TO: Village of Oak Park Transportation Commission

RE: Irving School Transportation Plan

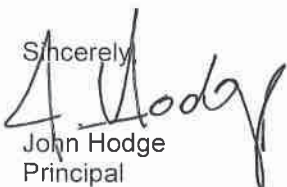
Dear Transportation Commission,

Following a traffic accident that involved a pedestrian at the intersection of Harvard and Cuyler earlier this year, Irving School contacted the Village of Oak Park regarding traffic safety issues. At that time I learned that Irving School does not currently have a transportation safety plan. Village employees and stakeholders from the school have been working since that time to develop proposals to improve transportation safety around Irving Elementary School that will greatly enhance student and safety at our school.

As principal of Washington Irving Elementary School, I would like to thank you for reviewing the proposed plan and for considering each proposal. I would like to take this opportunity to explain why I fully support these changes.

- Creating a new vehicle drop-off/pick-up zone on the south side of Harvard St between Ridgeland Ave and Cuyler Ave (traveling eastbound). Parking restrictions would be changed to NO PARKING, LOADING/DROP-OFF ZONE, 7AM-4PM, MON-FRI. This will allow students to exit vehicles curbside and access school property without having to cross the street.
- Use of a barricade on the westbound side of Harvard St west of Cuyler Ave to eliminate westbound traffic during arrival and dismissal times. Currently, many vehicles drop off students on the north side of Harvard St and children are crossing the street mid-block to access school property.
- Create a clockwise vehicle traffic pattern around Irving School encouraging vehicles to travel eastbound on Harvard St and southbound on Cuyler. This pattern will increase safety for students since they can exit vehicles curbside (south side of Harvard St and west side of Cuyler Ave) and have access to school property without having to cross the street.
- Provide additional space to be used for drop-off and pick-up of students along Cuyler Ave by changing the bus-loading zone on Cuyler Ave between Harvard St and the northern handicap parking space to NO PARKING, LOADING/DROP-OFF ZONE, 7AM-4PM, MON-FRI. This will also help to discourage drivers from dropping off students mid-block in the middle of Cuyler Ave causing numerous traffic and safety concerns.
- Change parking restriction time periods to mirror the hours that school is in session. Currently signs read 8AM-4PM, we would like those times to be changed to 7AM-4PM.
- Increase safety at the intersection of Harvard St and Cuyler Ave by hiring a crossing guard to be present during arrival and dismissal times periods. I understand that a request for a new crossing guard must be submitted to District 97 for consideration and if approved District 97 would be financially responsible for the crossing guard. This is the intersection where the accident occurred earlier in the year and has become increasingly more hazardous as our student enrollment and the number of vehicles utilizing the intersection as grown over the years.
- Request that the Illinois Department of Transportation consider a school speed zone on Ridgeland Ave adjacent to the school since Ridgeland is an unmarked state highway. Ridgeland provides many commuters north and south bound access and speeds can become excessive and dangerous for a street bordering school property.

Again, I appreciate your time and consideration and in reviewing these proposed changes. We also appreciate the diligence and the spirit of collaboration of the Village employees as we worked to develop a plan that reflects the needs of our school community and will enhance the safety of Irving students.

Sincerely,

John Hodge
Principal

From: Alicia Boddy
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Transportation
Subject: Traffic Safety Plan Review: Irving Elementary

Dear Transportation Commission,

I would like to voice my support for the proposed traffic safety plan for Irving Elementary school. I am a resident of Cuyler Avenue and have two children that are current students at Irving. The intersections around the school can be incredibly dangerous for both adults and parents walking to and from school. There is a growing problem with dangerous parking around the school that interferes with the buses, creating an incredibly stressful and hazardous drop off and pick up situation. There have been numerous times that buses and/or cars are honking at each other as our children are walking into school or leaving school. These situations are embarrassing for our students to witness and dangerous for the vehicles involved.

It is imperative that we fix these issues for the safety of our children! I feel that the proposed plan does an excellent and thorough job addressing many of the concerns of our Irving families.

We look forward to starting the 2018-2019 school year with the safety of our students and parents a top priority!

Thank you,
Alicia Boddy