

October 28, 2018

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

Dear Jill,

Please see the attached Petition for Traffic Calming Measures at the intersection of S. Kenilworth and Lexington in Oak Park. Our neighbors on Kenilworth and Lexington overwhelmingly agree that this intersection is a safety concern, primarily for pedestrians.

Currently, there is a two-way stop at Kenilworth and Lexington. The two existing stop signs face Kenilworth, so north/south traffic must stop. East/west traffic along Lexington does not stop. Lexington is by far the busier of the two streets, and traffic on Lexington can be heavy during the morning and afternoon/evening rush hours. Motorists on Lexington are often looking for alternatives to the busiest east/west roads such as Roosevelt and Garfield. Often, these motorists are going at or above posted speed limits on Lexington. It can be nerve-racking for adults to safely walk across Lexington at Kenilworth, and for children this intersection is hazardous.

One of our biggest concerns is the safety of children and families walking to and from school. The intersection of Kenilworth and Lexington is only 1 block from Lincoln School and Carroll Park. Additionally, middle school children are walking from this neighborhood to go north to Brooks Middle School.

Here are some additional considerations related to this intersection and the proximity to Lincoln School:

- Traffic on Lexington is particularly heavy during the same hours when children are walking to and from school.
- Nearly 700 children attend Lincoln School. Many of these children walk to school, while others are driven to school by parents, thus increasing traffic. The 1000 block of Kenilworth is a commonly used block for parents to park while dropping off and picking up from school.
- While Lincoln School's address might technically be on S. Grove, students do NOT enter or exit the building on Grove. The dropoff and pickup areas for all grades are located on the west side of the building nearest to Kenilworth and Harvard.
- Lincoln School busses use Harvard Ave before and after school. Many commuters know this and use Lexington as an alternative to Harvard. Other motorists are forced north on Kenilworth to Lexington because Harvard is closed from Kenilworth to Grove before and after school.

My husband and I do have children that currently attend Lincoln School, and this is of course a big reason why this intersection is important to us. However, we assume our children will be nearly finished with their time at Lincoln before any traffic calming measures might be implemented. We are still pursuing this for the safety of everyone else. We have experienced how difficult it can be to cross Lexington, and even as 5th graders we won't be letting our children walk to school without us because of this intersection.

We believe installing stop signs or a flashing pedestrian walkway on Lexington at Kenilworth would slow down traffic and increase safety for all pedestrians and motorists. We don't want to wait until someone gets hurt before we pursue Traffic Calming Measures for this intersection.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

April Johnson