

**Town of Garner
Public Works Committee
June 01, 2009**

The Public works Committee met at 4:30 PM on Monday, June 01, 2009
Town Council Meeting Room.

ATTENDING: Mayor Pro-Tem, Buck Kennedy; Council Member, Ken Marshburn; Frank Powell; Town Engineer; Tom Moss, Police Chief; Hardin Watkins, Town Manager and Rodney Dickerson, Assistant Town Manager

ATTENDING RESIDENTS: Garry Lee, 509 Old Scarborough Lane

Consider Petition to Remove Four-Way Stop Signs

Location: Intersection of Hadrian Drive and Old Scarborough Lane

A petition has been submitted from a group of individuals in the Heather Woods Subdivision requesting that the Town remove the four-way stop condition at the intersection of Old Scarborough Lane and Hadrian Drive. This petition was signed by 48 residents, representing 42 households. A review of the petition indicates that there is concern about potential traffic accidents or "near misses" at that intersection as a result of the four-way stop condition.

This four-way stop was ordinated in June of (2002) 3191 based upon a petition submitted by area residents representing 47 households. The four-way stop signs were requested in an effort to reduce speeding on Old Scarborough Lane.

At this time the Engineering Department recommended against the installation of the four-way stop signs at this intersection. Their current position on this matter remains unchanged.

Discussion:

Council Member Kennedy explained the procedures of the Public Works meeting. He then asked Mr. Dickerson for a history overview of the four-way stop intersection.

Mr. Dickerson explained the following:

An Ordinance for the four-way stop was adopted in June of (2002) 3191, based upon a petition submitted by area residents representing 47 households. The four-way stop signs were requested in an effort to reduce speeding on Old Scarborough Lane.

The Board of Aldermen at that time passed this with a 3 to 2 vote.

Residents want the stop condition on Old Scarborough Lane removed.

Council Member Kennedy asked why the residents wanted the four-way stop.

Mr. Powell's Response:

1. Speed Control - Reduce Speeding
2. Reduce cut through traffic to Buffalo Road

Council Member Kennedy asked Mr. Powell how the traffic count comes into play with this situation.

Mr. Powell stated MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways) the reasons listed below for why multiway stops should be used are as follows:

- The volume of traffic on the intersecting roads is approximately equal and at least 300 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of an average day.
- Where traffic signals are warranted and urgently needed, the multiway stop is an interim measure that can be quickly installed.
- An accident problem exists, as indicated by 5 or more reported accidents of a type susceptible of correction by a multiway stop in 12 periods.

Also MUTCD states that stop signs should not be used for speed control

The amount of accidents at this intersection from 1996 to present is zero. Chief Moss stated that accidents are not an issue here.

People do not obey a stop sign if they think it is not necessary, so they just roll through the stop sign. The police have issued 7 tickets this year.

Chief Moss requested a need for education for the residents regarding possible signage-traffic pattern signs if and when the signs are taken down. He also stated that one week of public education should be enough. A sign board can be installed temporarily.

Mr. Lee stated that he worked with North Carolina Department of Transportation for 43 years as a Transportation Engineer. He said there is a good sight distance on Old Scarborough Lane. Folks pull up and they are not sure what to do and who goes first. Mr. Lee stated that the last time he did not want the four-way stop sign. (But he would like to see the signs removed on Old Scarborough Lane).

Mr. Powell stated that there are 42 houses on the frontage of Old Scarborough Lane and 16 of those residents signed the petition.

Council Member Kennedy asked if you are turning left is there more of a chance to have an accident?

Mr. Powell stated that people think stop signs are to slow traffic down.

Council Member Marshburn asked if there is a silent majority who want it.

Mr. Powell stated that there are 225 homes (two phases have been added) not counting the Village of Aversboro.

Council Member Marshburn stated that if there are 3 experts in agreement that the four-way stop signs should not have been installed, should we correct the mistake even if it's later.

Mr. Dickerson stated that the review period has been 7 years now.

Mr. Powell referred to the memo on traffic tickets and why they were issued.

Chief Moss stated that there is no additional work load for the police in regard to the radar sign going back up before and after when sign goes down. The area around the intersection could cause the possibility of accidents due to speeding.

Council Member Kennedy stated that down the road regarding speeding issues when the stop signs come down, we need to know the following:

- How many speeding tickets are given out at the beginning of the week
- How many speeding tickets have been given out at the end of that week

Police need to monitor when the sign comes down. The first week police should be very hard on giving out tickets for speeding.

Hadrian Drive encounters neighborhood traffic only.

Mr. Lee stated that the original petition came from the first house on the right on Old Scarborough Lane regarding speeding issues. Three residents spoke at the meeting.

June 2002 Statements from Several Residents and Town of Garner Police Chief

James Reeves, 306 Old Scarborough Lane, said he has live there for 10 years. Over the years the volume of traffic has increased and this street has become a short cut to Buffalo Road. A stop sign in that location could deter people from using the subdivision as a cut through and will make the neighborhood safer.

Mr. Bill McCauley, 701 Old Scarborough Lane, said he has lived there for 14 years. He commended the police for efforts to control the speeding. He said he did not know if the stop sign would work for speed control, but he did hope it would be a deterrent for people cutting through the subdivision.

Mr. Garry Lee, 509 Old Scarborough Lane, said he did not feel a stop sign in that location would work as a method of speed control. This is an undesirable solution that will bring more aggravation, pollution and noise.

Chief Moss said he agreed with the Town Engineer that the stop signs do not adequately reduce speeding, but the Police staff will enforce either the stop sign or the speeding.

Council Member Kennedy asked if there is any more discussion on this matter. Discussion has been ended. He suggested that this issue be referred to Town Council as a discussion item not on the consent agenda, this way other Council Members will be able to discuss this. He also stated that there does not need to be a public hearing.

ACTION: JUNE 16TH AGENDA - DISCUSSION ITEM

Motion: Marshburn
Second: Kennedy
Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment: 5:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Reynolds
Deputy Town Clerk