

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From the Council Traffic Ad Hoc Committee

May 8, 2006

Subject

Signage Around Uncontrolled Intersections

Recommendation

Adopt a policy on signage around uncontrolled intersections:

Recommended wording: City Council policy is that all intersections where two or more through streets intersect shall be under control, either by stop light or signage.

Background

Redwood City's neighborhoods have developed in different ways. According to City staff, Redwood City has approximately 1600 intersections. While 99.7% of these have stop signs, stop lights, there are a handful of intersections with no controls whatsoever. While this may be permissible under California state vehicle code, we believe Redwood City should set a higher standard.

Ideally, the City should conduct an inventory of intersections to determine what signage we have, find out exactly how many of our intersections do not have any signs, and determine which need improvement. Staff has estimated that hiring a consultant to do this inventory would cost \$25,000-\$30,000. Although we still believe this would be a good investment, we are proposing a less expensive alternative.

The committee is currently aware of the following four-way intersections that have no signage whatsoever:

Ruby/Vera
Ruby/Madison
Topaz/Madison
Allerton/Hopkins
Lowell/Katherine

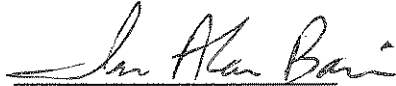
Although residents of the street may be used to it, there is always the wild card of someone driving through the neighborhood for the first time. This includes delivery trucks, landscapers, pizza delivery persons, out-of-town visitors, etc. These visitors tend to drive 25-30 mph -- and correctly or not -- they assume that if they don't see a stop sign, that the other side has one.

In 2005, we installed stop signs at Jeter/Harrison, at an intersection very similar to those listed above. The stop signs had the strong, unanimous support of the neighborhood. We are suggesting we adopt a policy that no four-way intersections remain uncontrolled. That leaves three-way intersections alone, as most drivers recognize the need to slow down at these types of intersections. We (the City) would

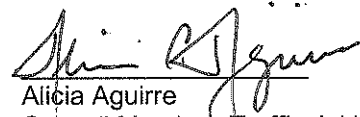
work with residents to determine the best location and type of signs needed.

Fiscal Impact

If the cost of a sign is \$500 (as quoted by staff several years ago), then the cost for installing signs on these intersections would be approximately \$5,000, which would come from our capital improvements budget.



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