

To the members of the Traffic Safety Commission,

I am writing to you as the president of the University Place Neighborhood Association to request a review of the traffic calming devices in our neighborhood. After two neighborhood traffic discussion meetings which included a review of new traffic data, a reconvening of the University Place Traffic Committee, and a neighborhood vote on the traffic calming devices, the neighborhood association has decided to ask that the currently installed devices be made permanent. In addition, we are requesting that the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) consider two additional temporary traffic circles on 18th street, at Indiana and Illinois Streets.

The temporary traffic calming devices were installed in July of 2003 after a plan, designed by the neighborhood, was approved by the TSC and the City Commission. An initial review of the devices by the TSC occurred in October of 2003. Also in October, the neighborhood requested that traffic counts be conducted in order to determine the effectiveness of the devices at reducing cut through traffic (the diverter) and traffic speed (the traffic circles).

The data from the traffic counts was reviewed at two neighborhood meetings, one in October and one in November. At the November meeting, the residents voted to keep the traffic calming devices in place and to reform a University Place Traffic Committee (UPTC) to study the alternatives.

At the meetings in November and December, UPTC members considered alternatives to the 18th street diverter such as moving the diverter, removing the diverter and replacing it with traffic circles or speed humps along 18th street. The data showed greatly reduced traffic on 18th street since the installation of the diverter. Because of this, the UPTC decided that the diverter was the best solution to the problem of cut through traffic.

The speed data taken on Indiana and Illinois Streets was not as clear. In some cases there were minor decreases in speeds, but in other cases the 85th percentile speeds had actually increased. The data, however, was taken at mid block and the traffic circles would be expected to decrease speeds at the intersections. Members of UPTC felt that if there was a second traffic circle on 18th Street that it is possible that drivers would maintain the reduced speeds for the entire block.

At this point the UPTC decided to seek input from the neighborhood about making the traffic devices permanent and about adding two traffic circles on 18th, at Indiana and Illinois Streets. In March, a ballot was sent to each resident of the neighborhood, seeking his/her input. The results show that a majority of the responding residents approve of making the 18th street diverter and the 17th Street traffic circles permanent. In addition, a majority of the residents favor installing temporary traffic circles on 18th Street at Indiana and Illinois. We would like to request that you consider these proposals at your June meeting.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Aline Hoey

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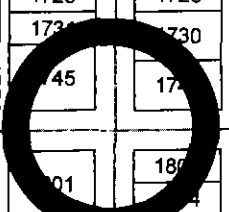
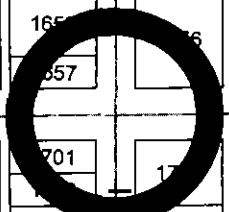
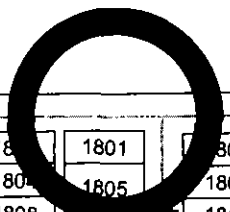
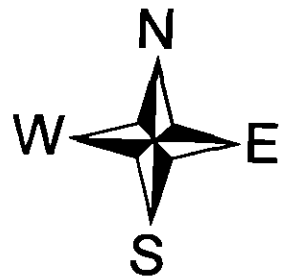
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