



Staff Report

Subject: Traffic Control / 1100-1200 Block Westrun

Department/Program: Police Department / Public Works Department

Explanation:

At the June 14, 2021 Board Meeting a resident living in the 1100 block of Westrun presented a petition signed by several neighbors requesting stop signs at Westrun and Marsten Ct, making it a three-way stop.

It should be noted that earlier in 2021 the police department's Traffic Unit installed a traffic analysis device on that block for seven days. It found that the average speed was 26.1 miles per hour, 1.1 mph over the speed limit for that road. It also found that when counting only the speeders, which make up less than 62% of all drivers there, the average speed was 28.5 mph, 3.5 over the limit.

Also, the average daily vehicle count was about 350 per day.

After the resident's presentation Mayor Pogue asked Chief Schaeffler and Public Works Director Link to review the information and make a recommendation.

After reviewing the information collected by the traffic analysis device we have concluded that the situation does not call for stop signs as requested. But we are recommending a different strategy that we feel will help with the speeding AND help with additional issues.

When the Ruppel Farms subdivision was built Westrun was extended north to intersect with Reinke. To control speeding the section of road between 1241 and 1242 Westrun was constructed as a "choker". The road narrows to one lane and is designed as an "S" curve.

Again, this was designed to slow traffic. However, it has had limited effect on the speeding and has created a problem for Public Works when it comes to snow plowing (or removal) and moving larger vehicles through the area.

Regarding the speed control, it only slows drivers if there is a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. When that happens one of the vehicles has to stop to allow the other to travel through the area before proceeding. When there is no vehicle coming from the opposite direction, the one vehicle does not even need to slow down, much less stop, when traveling through the "choker".

Regarding the issues with the Public Works vehicles, the snow plows are continually hitting the curbs with their plow blades, which causes potential damage to the curb, the yard adjacent the curb and the plow blade. Additionally, the larger vehicles are continually driving over the curbs as they try to negotiate the "S" curve. One neighbor even put large rocks along their portion of the "S", which will certainly cause damage to any of our vehicles that fail to negotiate properly.

Recommendation:

It is our recommendation that the "choker" be removed. That the roadway be rebuilt to two, straight lanes. Then we add mid-block stop signs, one in each direction, at 1241 and 1242 Westrun. This will control speed as originally desired, assist with speed control in the 1100 block of Westrun and allow our Public Works vehicles passage without causing any damage.

The estimated cost for the Public Works department to do this work in-house is \$5,000.00.

Submitted By: Director Jim Link, Public Works
Chief Doug Schaeffler, Police Department

Date: July 12, 2021