

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roger L. Stancil, Town Manager

FROM: Lance Norris, Public Works Director
Kumar Neppalli, Engineering Services Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of All-Way Stop Control at the Intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive

DATE: November 23, 2009

PURPOSE

This report responds to a request for installation of all-way stop control at the intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive. Please see the area map provided in Attachment 1.

We recommend that the Council enact the attached ordinance authorizing installation of all-way stop control at the intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Town staff received a request (Attachment 2) for installation of all-way stop control at the intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive. The requester expressed the following concerns:

- Accident history
- Vehicular speeding
- Pedestrian traffic (including significant numbers of children using the school bus)

Leclair Street and Emory Drive are maintained by the Town and the posted speed limit is 25 mph on both streets. Leclair Street is designated as a “through” street at its intersection with Emory Drive, and vehicles currently continue through the intersection without being required to stop. Emory Drive is designated as a “stop” street, and vehicles are required to stop at the existing stop sign before continuing through the intersection.

Review of accident history between 2000 and 2009 showed four reported accidents at the subject intersection. We believe that at all four of the reported accidents were of the type that could potentially be corrected by the installation of stop signs as requested.

Town staff visited the site and evaluated conditions at different times of the day. We observed approximately equal traffic volume entering the subject intersections from all directions. We also observed a significant number of school-age children using the nearby bus stops and crossing the intersection in the morning and afternoon. Town staff also conducted traffic studies

(volume and speed studies) at this intersection. We found daily traffic volume to be approximately equal on both Leclair Street (615) and Emory Drive (560).

In 1989, the Town Council adopted a policy for the placement of stop signs and assignment of speed limits. A copy of the policy is provided in Attachment 3. The policy was adopted to provide guidance and consistency in responding to requests for the installation of stop signs and the assignment of speed limits on public streets.

We considered the stop sign request at the intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive in terms of the following criteria outlined in the Council's policy:

- #4) Intersection where a combination of high speed, restricted sight distance, and serious accident record indicates a need for control by stop sign(s).
- #7) Intersection with existing irregular stop sign placement, where additional sign(s) would improve safety.

CONCLUSION

We think that the installation of the requested stop signs could mitigate potential conflicts and confusion for vehicular traffic, and could improve pedestrian safety at and in the vicinity of these intersections. If the additional stop signs are authorized by the Council, we would include "Stop Ahead" warning signs and stop bars on all approaches to the intersection.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Council enact the attached ordinance authorizing installation of all-way stop control at the intersection of Leclair Street and Emory Drive.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Area Map (p. 4).
2. E-mail Request (p. 5).
3. Town's Policy on Placement of Stop Signs (p. 6).