



## Item No. 17 Town of Atherton

### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**DATE: May 19, 2021**

**SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF HOURS FOR THE RIGHT-TURN ON RED  
RESTRICTIONS AT THE MIDDLEFIELD ROAD/OAK GROVE  
AVENUE INTERSECTION**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of modification to the hours for the right-turn on red restriction at the Middlefield Road/Oak Grove Avenue intersection to be between the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The City Council requested that the Transportation Committee review the adopted speed limits on Middlefield Road and advise the Council regarding the potential of reducing speeds along Middlefield Road and to provide a recommendation as to whether speeds should be reduced.

In discussion of the agenizing of the discussion of speed limits on Middlefield Road, members of the Transportation Commission desired to review the exiting turn restrictions at the Middlefield Road / Oak Grove intersection. The turn restrictions are set at each leg of the intersection restricting right turns on red between the hours of 7:30 am to 9:30 am and 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

#### **DISCUSSION**

At the Transportation Committee meeting on March 19, 2021, the Transportation Committee reviewed the adopted speed limit of 30 mph, the Engineering and Traffic Survey dated October 13, 2020, radar recorder results dated October 27 – November 2 and November 12- 17, 2020, Menlo Park Council Staff Report adopting speed limits, and the accident history along Middlefield Road between January 2016 and December 2020. Upon review and discussion, the Transportation Committee did not recommend any changes from the current speed limit of 30 mph on Middlefield Road at this time.

The Transportation Committee also reviewed the “No Right Turn on Red” turn restrictions at the Middlefield Riad intersection with Oak Grove. The Transportation Committee received a verbal

report from Sgt. Metzger on the history of the turn restrictions at the intersection. Sgt. Metzger advised that the restrictions of right-turns on red were initiated over 25 years ago, initially limiting right turns on red from Oak Grove Avenue to Middlefield Road between the hours of 7 am – 7 pm, Monday - Friday.

Due to growing population at the high school, the restrictions (no right turn on red) were expanded to all legs of the intersection – no right turn on red for each leg – between the hours of 7 am to 7 pm, Monday – Friday, in approximately 1997. These restrictions remained in place until approximately 2014 or 2015, when the restrictions were changed to the hours of 7:30 am – 9:30 am and 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Monday – Friday. This appeared to try to correspond to the hours of the school at the time. School hours and student activity at and around the school have changed significantly over the years with regards to start and end times, varied schedules, and before/after school activities.

With the changing hours of operations, different schedules, the locations of the bus stops at the intersection (across Oak Grove Avenue and across Middlefield Road from the school) and the significant student/pedestrian activity at the intersection, Sgt. Metzger's recommendation was to revert the hours of the restrictions to 7:00 am – 7:00 pm to accommodate the varying hours of the school, varying schedules, and significant student/pedestrian activity through the day. It was noted that there is limited visibility around a couple of the corners and the no right turn on red is appropriate for the locations where they are posted. It was also noted that standardizing the hours would also make it easier for compliance by the motoring public and enforcements.

The Committee appreciated the information and recommendations by Sgt. Metzger. The Committee asked further questions and deliberated various issues and concerns, including sight visibility, student/pedestrian safety, ever changing school hours and schedules, ease on compliance and enforcement, potential traffic backups and impacts. After deliberations, the Committee recommended that the right-tun on red restrictions be revised to be from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Limited impacts. New turn restriction signage will be required. There are sufficient funds in the existing Public Works operating budget to cover the cost of the new signs.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents

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as well as stakeholders – to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

**COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL**

This item  X  has or   has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Civic Center Advisory Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- X  Transportation Committee (meets every other month)

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.