



JAMES J. BENES AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 26, 2015

To: Jeff Brady
Director of Planning
Village of Glenview

DRAFT

From: Thomas Adomshick, PE, PTOE Philip M. Tartaglia
President Engineering Intern

Re: Colfax Avenue 2015 Traffic Data (Harlem to Waukegan)
Glenview, Illinois
Job No. 1457

The Village retained James J. Benes & Associates, Inc. to perform daily vehicular volumes and speed data collection to identify any changes on Colfax Street since the last counts performed in 2014. The Mariano’s grocery store in the northeast quadrant of the Golf Road and Waukegan Road intersection opened for business in the fall of 2014, after 2014 traffic data was collected. Traffic data was collected at the same locations as the previous studies along Colfax Street between Harlem Avenue and Waukegan Road.

Traffic Volume and Speed Data

Twenty-four hour daily traffic volume and speed data were collected using automatic traffic sensors, recording data from Tuesday October 6th through Thursday October 9th, 2015 on Colfax Avenue both west of Nora Avenue and east of Nordic Avenue. Supplemental speed and volume data west of Nora Avenue was also collected on Colfax from Tuesday October 20th through Thursday October 22, 2015.

The week of October 20 counts were performed because the October 6 traffic sensor placement west of Nora was too close to Harlem Avenue, influencing (lowering) 85th percentile speeds. West of Nora Avenue, the below average 24-hour volume as based on the six days of data collection, while the 85th percentile speed was based on the three day count west of Nora but east of the alley.

The following table provides the current and historic daily traffic volumes recorded along Colfax Street between Harlem Avenue and Waukegan Road.

DAILY TRAFFIC VOLUMES ON COLFAX AVENUE				
Street	Two-Way 24-Hour Traffic Volume			
	2006	2013	2014	2015
Harlem to Nora	1630	1545	1477	1695
Nordica to Nottingham	n/a	1565	1579	1669

Between 2006, and 2013, traffic volumes decreased, which is consistent with nationwide traffic trends in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Annual VMT typically mirrors national economic trends. Bureau of Transportation Statistics data shows VMT dropping from a peak in late-2007 to a low in early 2010. VMT then began increasing slowly at first, and increasing at a higher rate over the past couple of years, generally consistent with the economic upswing. We have observed similar patterns in traffic volumes in the Chicago metropolitan area in recent years.

From 2006 to 2015, national annual VMT has experienced a total increase of about 3.4 percent, with an increase of about 4.4 percent from 2013 to 2015 VMT. Applying these percentages to the Colfax 2006 daily traffic volume west of Nora and to the 2013 volume east of Nordica would yield projected daily traffic volumes of 1685 vehicles per day west of Nora and 1633 vehicles east of Nordica.

The recorded 2015 traffic volumes are 10 vehicles and 36 vehicles per day higher than what would be expected respectively at the west and east ends of the study area based on national traffic trends. This is an average of about 1 additional vehicle per hour near Harlem Avenue and about 3 vehicles per hour closer to Waukegan Road. The differences could be a reflection of normal day-to-day variation in traffic volumes, or could reflect an increase in traffic resulting from the opening of Mariano's grocery store. It is our opinion that the data suggests that Mariano's is having minimal impact on traffic volumes on Colfax Avenue.

Vehicular speeds have been stable on the western portion of Colfax Street near Nora Avenue since 2006, with 85th percentile speeds fluctuating between 29 and 31mph. In 2015, the recorded 85th percentile speed was about 30 mph, 1 mph lower than recorded in 2014. In the block of Colfax between Nordica and Nottingham Avenues, the change in 85th percentile speed between 2014 and 2015 was minimal, about 0.2 mph.

Conclusion

- Daily volumes –Traffic volumes on Colfax Avenue have increased from 2014 to 2015. The increase in traffic volumes is at a rate minimally higher than national traffic data trends. The difference in number of counted vehicles per hour versus expected based on traffic trends averaged over a full day ranges from 1 to 3 vehicles per hour. It does not appear that Mariano's grocery store is materially affecting traffic volumes along Colfax Avenue.
- Speed –The 85th percentile speed along on Colfax Street between Harlem Avenue and Waukegan Road has remained stable since 2014, with minimal change.

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