



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

April 23, 2007

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Charles T. Craft, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Woodside Bible Church Request for Authorization to Install a Traffic Signal

Background:

- During late 2006/early 2007, Woodside Bible Church, 6600 Rochester Road, contacted the police department regarding the congestion occurring on Rochester Road and in the parking lot as vehicles enter/exit their parking lot during Sunday services. Woodside staff expressed concerns about the congestion in the parking lot and safety hazards created by exiting/entering vehicles.
- The possibility of police department traffic direction was discussed; Woodside staff was advised the department could not make such a long-term commitment.
- Woodside staff was referred to the Traffic Engineer regarding possible installation of a traffic signal that would function only during service times or for special events.
- During the construction of the church, their consultant advised a traffic signal was not warranted as per the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Lieutenant Scott McWilliams of the Traffic Safety Unit inspected the site and confirmed the congestion and the dangers it caused.
- The matter was referred to the Traffic Committee and discussed at their February 21, 2007, meeting. At the meeting one citizen appeared and expressed opposition to the signal based on, per the minutes, inconvenience the light would cause her and her fears the signal may be cycled during the week when there is not need for it. A Woodside representative appeared and indicated the church would assume the cost of the light and reiterated safety concerns.
- The Traffic Committee discussed the matter and made the following suggestions:
 - Stagger service times
 - Make one of the two church driveways in and the other out
 - Utilize church staff to physically direct traffic to the proper exits.
- Ultimately, the Committee voted to take no action on the request.
- At the March 5, 2007, City Council meeting the item was removed from the Traffic Committee Recommendations portion of the agenda and not acted upon.
- The City Manager assigned the matter to the police department for review and recommendation.
- Several traffic signals, not meeting Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices warrants have been installed in Troy. These traffic signals operate only during specified times. The locations of those signals are as follows:
 - Wattles and Victoria – installed at Troy School District expense.

- Long Lake Road West of Northfield Parkway – installed at Troy School District expense.
- Livernois North of Square Lake (in front of Woodland Elementary School) – installed at Avondale School District expense
- Dequindre North of Big Beaver – installed at the expense of Faith Lutheran Church.
- Square East of Crooks – installed at the expense of Delphi Corporation.
- Butterfield and Crooks – Oakland County signal, the County has a private agreement with Kelly Services.
- Traffic Committee’s problem solving effort is praiseworthy; however, solutions resulting from the process must satisfy the needs of all parties; in this case the needs of the Traffic Committee, Woodside Bible Church, and the police department. My review indicates the recommendations do not meet the needs of all.
 - Signs prohibiting left turns are not enforceable and are not needed during the majority of time.
 - Based on my experience compliance with traffic signals is much greater than compliance with signs regulating turning movements.
 - The changing of service times does not meet the operational needs of the church.
- Traffic Engineer Dr. John Abraham advises the following:
 - He is not aware of any complaints arising from privately installed signals.
 - The requested signal may assist in easing travel on Rochester Road during the service times by minimizing friction with church traffic.
 - May assist in residents of DeEtta in turning onto Rochester Road.
 - Residents of DeEtta who favor the installation of the signal have contacted him.
 - He is not opposed to the installation of the signal.
- Based on the totality of the circumstances, the police department supports the installation of a traffic signal funded by Woodside Bible Church.
- Please be advised that I am a member of Woodside.

Financial Considerations:

- None to the City of Troy – Woodside Bible Church would assume all installation costs.

Legal Considerations:

- City Council authorization is required for installation of the traffic signal.

Policy Considerations:

- City Goal #1: “Enhance the livability and safety of the community.

Options:

- Approve the request for authority to install a traffic signal.
- Deny the request.