J-14

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

Date: June 21, 2016

To: Brian Kischnick, City Manager

From: Mark F. Miller, Director of Economic and Community Development
Steven J. Vandette, City Engineer
William J. Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

Subject: Traffic Committee Recommendations and Minutes – June 15, 2016

At the Traffic Committee meeting of June 15, 2016, the following recommendations were made for City Council approval:

3. Request for Traffic Control – Wesley at Newton

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Wesley at Newton be **MODIFIED** from NO traffic control to a YIELD sign on the Newton Drive southbound approach to the intersection.

4. Request for No Parking Zone – Redwood

RESOLVED, that a NO PARKING zone be **ESTABLISHED** approximately forty (40) feet north of the intersection on southbound Redwood and ending at the driveway to 169 Redwood on eastbound Redwood.

Minutes of the meeting are attached.

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A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, June 15, 2016 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Mitch Huber
Richard Kilmer
Al Petrulis
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Katie Regan (Student Representative)

Absent: Tim Brandstetter
David Easterbrook

Also present: Brad Pearsall, 4421 Forsyth
Bob Schumann, 4321 Forsyth
Mary Lawitzke, 127 Redwood
John & Carol Taylor, 4165 Forsyth
Dale Brown, 4333 Forsyth
Michael Laree, 4232 Forsyth
Les Marhoff, 4229 Forsyth
Karen Edwards, 4141 Forsyth
Kevin Rose, 824 Wesley
Mirela & Emanuel Balmus, 4476 Forsyth
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – May 18, 2016

Resolution # 2016-06-20
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Petrulis

To approve the May 18, 2016 minutes as printed.

Yes: Huber, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Brandstetter, Easterbrook

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

3. Request for Traffic Control – Wesley at Newton

Mr. James Ferden of 839 Wesley states that the lack of existing traffic control at the intersection of Wesley at Newton creates a hazardous condition. Traffic does not yield the right-of-way and travels through the intersection at a high rate of speed and is unsafe for drivers and pedestrians. Mr. Ferden states that the intersection is also a Troy School District bus stop.

Mr. Kevin Rose of 824 Wesley was in attendance at the meeting and questioned what traffic control was proposed and why was it being proposed. Mr. Rose does not support a Yield sign and does not see a need for it.

Mr. Petrulis stated that there are Yield signs on Newton at the next two intersections and questioned whether another Yield sign would make a difference. He is not clear why it is needed.

Mr. Ziegenfelder is in support of traffic control at all intersections. He supports a Yield sign rather than an implied yield when no signs exist at an intersection.

Sgt. Szuminski looks at the request as an issue of consistency. There is a Yield sign at Keats, so the lack of a sign here may imply that traffic does not need to Yield. The curve to the east, on Wesley, creates limited sight distance. Police support the installation of a Yield sign.

Ms. Wilsher stated that she supports the installation of a Yield sign.

One (1) email was received in opposition to any traffic control signage at the intersection.

Resolution # 2016-06-21
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that the intersection of Wesley at Newton be **MODIFIED** from NO traffic control to a YIELD sign on the Newton Drive southbound approach to the intersection.

Yes: Huber, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Brandstetter, Easterbrook

MOTION CARRIED

4. Request for No Parking Zone – Redwood

Kelly Broderick of 169 Redwood requests that a No Parking zone be established or re-established on Redwood, between the existing NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign on southbound Redwood to a previously existing NO PARKING sign near the driveway to 169 Redwood. Ms. Broderick provided a picture of a NO PARKING sign that was installed in front of her home years ago, but she states that it was hit by a drunk driver and never replaced.

Ms. Mary Lawitzke of 127 Redwood was in attendance at the meeting and was in support of a No Parking zone at the corner. She stated that when vehicles park in and around the corner it creates a hazardous situation. A driver's view is obstructed and she has experienced vehicles having to drive in the center of the road to get around parked cars.

Mr. Petrulis asked for clarification on the existing No Parking Here to Corner sign on Redwood, north of the intersection. There was no Traffic Control Order (TCO) that could be found when records were reviewed, so the request to post this area will also clean up this matter by issuing a TCO for the north-south and east-west area.

Ms. Wilsher stated that her daughter lives in this area and she drives here frequently. There are many cars parked in the street. She has noticed a truck that parks at the corner and it blocks visibility around the corner creating a hazardous situation.

Mr. Petrulis stated that the corner is very tight when vehicles park on the corner.

Three (3) emails were received in support of a No Parking zone at the corner.

Resolution # 2016-06-22
Moved by Wilsher
Seconded by Huber

RESOLVED, that a NO PARKING zone be **ESTABLISHED** approximately forty (40) feet north of the intersection on southbound Redwood and ending at the driveway to 169 Redwood on eastbound Redwood.

Yes: Huber, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Brandstetter, Easterbrook

MOTION CARRIED

5. Residential Speed Control – Forsyth, North of Wattles

At the January 20, 2016 Traffic Committee meeting, a discussion took place regarding speeding on Forsyth, north of Wattles. The Traffic Committee recommended:

- That two (2) 25 mph speed limit signs, in each direction, be approved for installation on northbound and southbound Forsyth, between Wattles and Hill Elementary; and
- That the Troy Police Department provide extra enforcement on Forsyth when not on higher priority calls; and
- That a follow up speed study be conducted in May 2016 to review the results of the new signage and police enforcement on Forsyth. The resulting speed study is to be brought back to the Traffic Committee at the June 2016 meeting.

OHM Advisors conducted a follow up speed study on May 3, 2016 through May 9, 2016. The follow up speed study revealed that the violation rate has dropped from 82% to 62% in the northbound direction and from 83% to 70% in the southbound direction. The 85th

percentile speed dropped from 35 mph to 32 mph in the northbound direction and 36 mph to 33 mph in the southbound direction. These results confirm an improvement in the compliance rate with the posted 25 mph speed limit.

While there is still a group of individuals that are driving at higher than desirable speeds, the overall number of vehicles driving at higher speeds has decreased. The recommendations made at the January meeting have made an impact. It will be a continuous effort to educate new drivers due to turnover at Hill Elementary. It is anticipated that another study will be conducted in the fall to check how these measures hold up with a new group of students/parents at the school.

Mr. Dale Brown of 4333 Forsyth stated that there has been an improvement in speeds since January when this item was previously discussed. Mr. Brown said he wanted to thank Sgt. Szuminski for the effort made by Troy Police. He said Sgt. Szuminski did everything he said he would and more. Mr. Brown asked that there be a continued police presence as drivers are more likely to drive the speed limit when then police are present. He has witnessed drivers passing the school bus when it is stopped.

Mr. Brad Pearsall of 4421 Forsyth agreed that there was a definite difference in driver behavior when the police were present. He questioned if the school can direct parents to avoid parking on Forsyth during events. He asked about the posting of Forsyth as a school zone and if the school zone can be extended. [The north end of Forsyth is posted as a School Zone currently, but Traffic Engineering will review the markings and area to see if there are opportunities to increase visibility and/or improve on the markings or signing].

Sgt. Szuminski spoke to the frequency of placing the radar trailer. Troy Police have two (2) radar trailers and they are used throughout the city. He stated that the radar trailer would be moved to Forsyth when it is available.

Mr. Michael Laree of 4232 Forsyth stated that the additional signs have helped bring down speeds. He also agreed that when the police are on site that speeds decrease significantly. He believes that there is still a problem at night. He is also concerned about people walking in the street due to the lack of sidewalks along Forsyth.

Carol Taylor of 4165 Forsyth spoke about people speeding even when school is not in session. She added that kids ride their bikes from the newer subdivision to the west and jump over a sidewalk on the corner and land near Forsyth.

Sgt. Szuminski discussed how residents can report an aggressive driver to the police department. Police cannot issue a ticket based on their report, but can and will send a letter and/or stop by to talk to the registered owner of the vehicle. Sgt. Szuminski reiterated that he will make getting the radar trailer out on Forsyth a priority.

Sue Schumann of 4321 Forsyth questioned whether Troy Police will respond to a resident report as she stated she was told that Troy Police could not act on this type of situation. Sgt. Szuminski clarified that Troy Police cannot issue a ticket based on a resident calling in, but that they will and do notify the registered vehicle owner or go out and speak with them.

Les Marhoff of 4229 Forsyth stated that the entire road cannot be a school zone.

Discussion by the Traffic Committee members ensued.

There was no action taken on this item pending another speed study in September when school is back in session. Options that may be used in other areas of the country are to be considered.

6. Public Comment

There was no additional public comment made.

7. Other Business

There was no other business brought forward.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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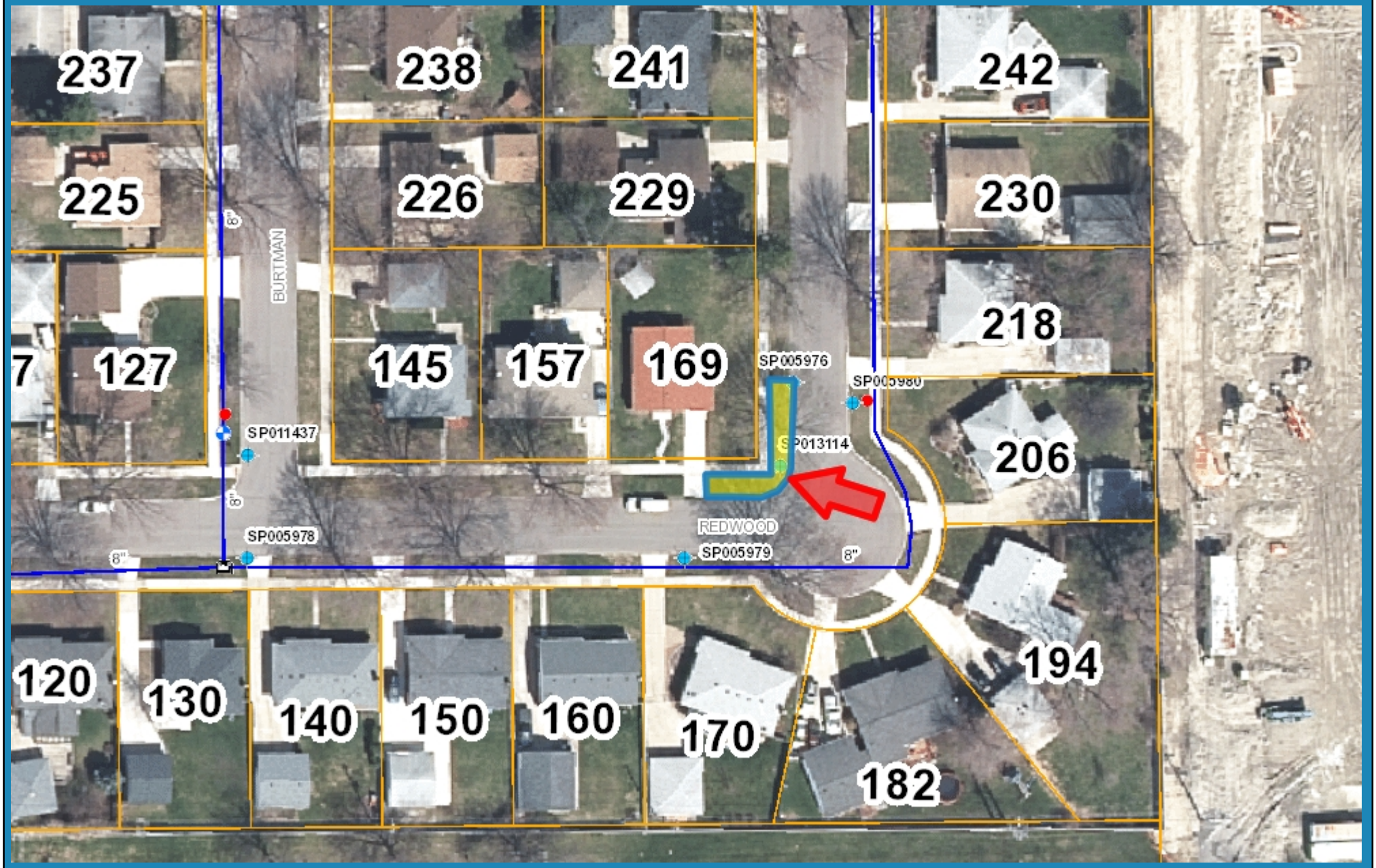

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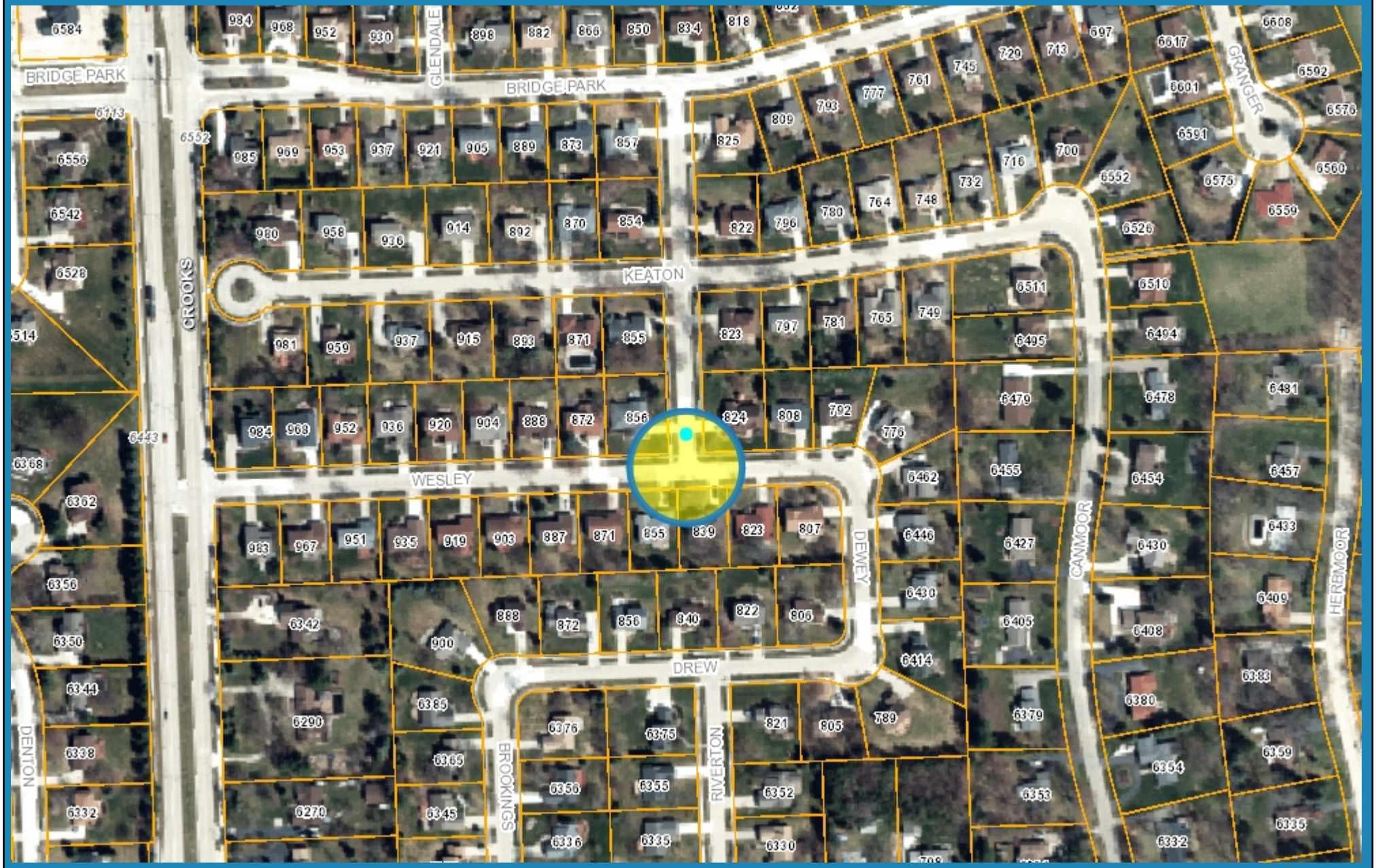

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