



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE, Traffic Engineer
Chair, Traffic Operations Committee

DATE: December 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Operations Committee in response to a communication from Councilor Herschlag regarding a request by residents of Borough Road to consider installing Deer Crossing signs on Borough Road between Blueberry and Millstream Lanes.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

On October 28, 2015, Councilor Herschlag submitted a communication to City Council regarding a request by residents of Borough Road to consider installing Deer Crossing signs on Borough Road between Blueberry and Millstream Lanes. City Council referred this request to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) on November 9, 2015. TOC considered this request at its November 17, 2015 meeting.

Discussion

At issue is a request by residents of Borough Road to consider installation of Deer Crossing signs due to observed presence of deer on this stretch of road between Blueberry and Millstream Lanes. Staff living in the area indicated that a doe with several fawns had often been seen grazing in the area of #61 Borough Road this season. Planning staff was not aware of notable game-crossing trails in the area. Police staff reported that only one deer collision was reported along this stretch of Borough Road in the last 11 years, and that animal sightings were not atypical of those on other streets in the rural area.

Deer are ubiquitous in the Concord area. Their potential presence on or near the city's street network can occur at any time, at any place, and may vary from season to season. As such, the potential posting of Deer Crossing signs wherever they are observed would result in the proliferation of such signs across the city with resulting loss of effectiveness. Use of such signs may be helpful to alert drivers at well-known game crossings on higher speed travel roads where it is common to expect animals to be crossing the road at a much higher frequency than elsewhere, year after year, or where crash incidence may be particularly

high. TOC concurred that this is not the case at the subject location and that installation of such signage here would have little benefit. It is a driver's responsibility to be cognizant of the road ahead at all times, including avoidance of animals that could and should be expected at any location.

RJM/rjm

cc: Traffic Operations Committee