



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE
Traffic Engineer

DATE: October 25, 2018

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee in response to a referral from Councilor Champlin regarding a constituent concern with intersection sight lines on the Pearl Street approach to N. State Street.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

On September 10, 2018, City Council forwarded to the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) a referral from Councilor Champlin regarding a constituent concern with intersection sight lines on the Pearl Street approach to N. State Street. Staff investigated the concern and made minor adjustment in street signage on September 28, 2018. This referral was also reviewed by TPAC at its October 25, 2018 meeting.

Discussion

At issue is a concern that on-street parking along the east side of N. State Street is too close to Pearl Street and impedes the sight lines for Pearl Street vehicles turning out onto N. State Street. Engineering staff visited the intersection and while the sight lines appeared to be appropriate, the 'No Parking Here To Corner' signs posted on the east side of N. State Street were not located far enough from Pearl Street per the Ordinance which specifies no parking within 40 feet north and 50 feet south of Pearl Street. General Services promptly put in a dig-safe order and the signs were located 10-20 feet further back on September 28, 2018. This additional sign setback should improve the perceived sight lines from Pearl Street.

The perceived sight-line interference here is typical across the city where on-street parking occurs. The Ordinance generally prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection and 30 feet from a stop sign, which had been the case at the subject intersection. Because of

crosswalks and the need to locate stop signs, stop lines are often painted well back from the through street, and certainly in advance of any crosswalks. The Concord Police Department advises that per state law, drivers must first stop at a stop sign or stop line, then proceed carefully forward to where they can safely see approaching traffic so that they can judge when it's safe to enter or cross the through street. The 'through street' is considered as the edge of the travel-way, or in this case the projected white edge line along N. State Street, which is well past the stop line painted on Pearl Street. While this may seem intuitive to most, we still get occasional concerns from drivers that they can't see because they feel the stop lines are too far back from the cross street.

At its October 25, 2018 meeting, TPAC concurred with staff response to this inquiry.

cc: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, Traffic Operations Committee