



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** January 25, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Report from the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee in response to a referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern with Loudon Road left turns into the new Dairy Queen site.

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report.

### **Background**

At its November 13, 2017 meeting, City Council referred to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) a request from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern that it has become more difficult to turn left into Woodcrest Heights Drive if a concurrent left turn is being made into the new Dairy Queen site driveway directly across the street. Engineering Services staff reviewed intersection crash records provided by the Concord Police Department (CPD). This referral and staff follow-up were reviewed by TPAC on December 15, 2017 and January 25, 2018.

### **Discussion**

At issue is a resident concern that it has become more difficult to turn left into Woodcrest Heights Drive if a concurrent left turn is being made into the new Dairy Queen site driveway directly across the street. Another concern is several recent crashes at the intersection since the Dairy Queen (DQ) opened this past summer.

The former movie theater and video store lots had been vacant for many years, but last year were consolidated and redeveloped into a new commercial site including the new DQ. The added turning traffic for this redeveloped site competes with existing turns to/from Woodcrest Heights Drive, increasing turning conflicts and delays from what drivers had become used to over the past when these lots were vacant. Difficult left turns are common

all along the corridor due to the four-lane configuration, lack of left-turn lanes and heavy traffic flows.

Regarding three crashes reported since the June 2017 opening of the DQ: one was a rear-end collision behind a left-turn into the DQ driveway; one was an angle crash caused by a left turn out of the DQ driveway; and one was precipitated by an improper left turn into Woodcrest Heights Drive. These are all common crash-types as experienced at driveways and minor side-streets along this section of the Heights corridor. The layout of the new site on which the DQ is located includes space for two more commercial buildings, all serviced by a common central driveway located opposite Woodcrest Heights Drive. The site layout was developed in conjunction with the Planning Board review process and included a reduction in the number of prior driveway openings.

This referral and staff follow-up was considered by TPAC on December 15, 2017 and January 25, 2018. Staff will continue to monitor traffic operations at this intersection.

cc: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee