



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** February 22, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Report from the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee in response to a referral from Councilor Keach regarding a constituent request to install a street light in the vicinity of 164 East Side Drive.

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report.

### **Background**

On January 30, 2017, Engineering Services was forwarded a referral from Councilor Keach regarding a request from a resident of Heritage Heights to install a street light on East Side Drive in the vicinity of #164 and the northern driveway to Heritage Heights. The request was considered by the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) on February 21, 2017.

### **Discussion**

At issue is a request by Chuck Strata of 149 East Side Drive to install a street light on East Side Drive in the area of the northern driveway to Heritage Heights (#149) and approximately opposite the driveway to Faith Tabernacle/East Side Learning Center driveway (#164). Cited in the request is the current lack of street lighting along this segment of East Side Drive as well as a recent vehicle crash at the church driveway.

Current city street lighting along East Side Drive in the subject area between Portsmouth Street and Loudon Road includes lighting near existing street intersections only. One exception is a street light located near #150-154 which is roughly the location of a former driveway to Heritage Heights that was removed around 2015. In the vicinity of Heritage Heights, there is private driveway lighting at East Side Drive at the center and southern Heritage Heights driveways; there is no private lighting on the subject northern Heritage Heights driveway at East Side Drive. There also appears to be a private floodlight mounted

on the next utility pole north facing the Faith Tabernacle Church (not the public way). This is likely a Unitil light with funding agreement with the church.

Concord Police Department reviewed reported crash history at this driveway location over the last three years. Only one crash was reported and occurred on January 24, 2017 at about 6:00 PM. A vehicle turning left from the Faith Tabernacle driveway collided with a southbound East Side Drive vehicle, after which the southbound vehicle was pushed into the path of an oncoming northbound vehicle. The operator of the left turning vehicle was found at fault and summonsed for failing to yield to oncoming traffic while turning left. TOC felt that in 'dark' conditions, a turning driver would have a clear view of approaching headlights from both directions, as is typical at most driveway locations in the city at night.

TOC noted it is current city practice to install street lighting at public street intersections. With three exceptions, this is the case for East Side Drive from Portsmouth Street to Loudon Road; the two southerly Heritage Heights driveways are privately lit; and there is a street light on a utility pole near #154. The latter street light location is in the vicinity of the former central driveway to Heritage Heights, since closed and relocated to a new location further south (with private driveway lighting). Engineering is in the process of reviewing street lighting city-wide. One objective of this review is to consider reducing the amount of unnecessary street lighting to lessen the significant cost of power consumption, with street lighting generally limited to key street intersections and other special locations determined on safety needs.

TOC members concurred in not recommending the addition of a city-funded street light at the subject northern Heritage Heights driveway. An option would be for the resident to approach Heritage Heights and/or the Faith Tabernacle Church with regard to coordinating with Unitil for the installation of a privately-funded street light at this driveway location. As previously noted, there is already one private floodlight mounted on a utility pole just to the north facing the church. TOC further recommended that the existing street light near #154 be discontinued as the former Heritage Heights driveway located here has since been relocated.

cc: Traffic Operations Committee