

**PRE-MEETING AGENDA
MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY COUNCIL**

**CITY HALL PRE-COUNCIL ROOM (A106)
56 CHURCH STREET
MOUNTAIN BROOK, AL 35213**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 6:15 P.M.

1. Teresa Callahan to discuss her ideas on proposed changes to the stop signs at the intersection of Dexter Avenue and Vine Street- Richard Caudle of Skipper Consultants (See attached information.)
2. Feral Cat ordinance amendments-Whit Colvin (See attached information.)

Sam Gaston

From: Teresa Callahan
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:18 PM
To: gastons@mtnbrook.org
Subject: Fwd: Dexter and Vine

I am hoping to get on the pre meeting agenda for September 23rd.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Teresa Callahan <treecal@gmail.com>
Subject: Dexter and Vine
Date: September 13, 2019 at 12:08:38 PM CDT
To: gastons@mtnbrook.org

Dear Mr. Gaston,

I, Teresa Callahan, am a former resident at 413 Dexter Avenue, am a future resident at 78 Vines Street. I have been on site everyday since the project began; end of school, start of school, during school and summer. There is no time of the year this intersection at Dexter and Vine does not pose a significant danger to our citizens, residents and most importantly our children.

It is completely unclear who is to stop if you are not familiar with this area. Drivers way exceed the speed limit coming from the pig up, over Dexter and onto Vine through to Euclid. This poses an immense danger for homeowners, pedestrians and drivers alike.

There will be an additional 12 perpendicular parking places facing the new townhomes, which also cause need for great concern. I have witness, on several occasions, iron tribe athletes close to being hit due to no stop sign on Vine street; they run a rout down dexter and back and some of the time do not look BOTH WAYS.

There will be a new tenant at the Vine street townhome commercial space on Dexter and a new establishment occupying the old Mafiosa pizza building, both of which cause ample need for change in the intersection of Dexter and Vine. This has not been considered, as the space is currently unoccupied, and this small are has substantially grown.

My own personal observation of the danger at this cross street, and down Vine proves to be a horrific accident waiting to happen. We must be vigilant in our changing villages to provide safety to our families!

Many parents I know also have the same concerns. One grandparent, I noticed, picked up her grandchild from school and had no idea what to do at the intersection. I was fortunately there to guide her. There are days I want to guide the school traffic myself, but it is not my responsibility. Children walking are put themselves in danger hoping a driver will see and obey the two way stop. (Not often)

This construction is nearing completion in a few months, it is my hope and prayer we can resolve

a terrible danger right in the heart of one of our busiest and most vibrant villages. Keeping our community safe as we grow and change must be our first objective.

Thank you,

Respectfully,
Teresa Callahan

Summary Notes
Intersection of Dexter Avenue at Vine Street

- Prior to June, 2016, the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street was controlled by stop signs facing Vine Street and no stop signs on Dexter Avenue
- In November, 2014 a traffic impact study was prepared for the Piggly Wiggly grocery store which was subsequently constructed in Crestline Village and which opened in June, 2016.
 - This traffic impact study addressed the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street
 - Traffic at this intersection is abnormally influenced by the traffic pattern of Crestline Elementary School
 - Observations of traffic conducted in 2014 showed long queues on Vine Street approaching Dexter Avenue during both the morning and afternoon school drop-off and pick-up times
 - Additional traffic generated by the Piggly Wiggly was projected to have an adverse impact to traffic on Vine Street northbound approaching Dexter Avenue
 - Four alternatives were analyzed:
 1. Keep the existing orientation of the stop signs
 2. Reverse the orientation of the stop signs, such that Dexter Avenue would have stop signs and Vine Street would be free flowing
 3. Install stop signs on Dexter Avenue, resulting in a four-way stop
 4. Install a traffic signal
 - Analysis results showed Alternative (2) reversing the stop signs, or Alternative (4) installing a traffic signal, were the only viable options for mitigating the impacts of Piggly Wiggly and improving traffic operations at the intersection
 - The City Council determined to reverse the orientation of the stop signs
- In October, 2016, the City undertook a traffic study of several issues in Crestline Village, including the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street
 - This study was conducted after the changes were implemented in June, 2016 for the new Piggly Wiggly
 - Observations at the intersection were conducted 7:15-8:00 a.m. and 2:45-3:15 p.m.
 - Observations included:
 - Vehicles on Vine Street which stopped when they should not have stopped
 - Vehicles on Dexter Avenue which proceeded when they should have stopped
 - The results of these observations are shown in Table 1
 - Two alternatives were analyzed for potential changes to the intersection
 1. Keep the existing orientation of the stop signs
 2. Install stop signs on Vine Street, resulting in a four-way stop
 - Results of the analysis showed better results with Alternative 1 (keeping the existing orientation of the stop signs), but also found that Alternative 2 (four-way stop) would not be significantly problematic
 - A maximum queue on 6 vehicles was projected on Vine Street
 - A meeting was held with the Mountain Brook Board of Education (Superintendent and Principal of Crestline Elementary School) on October 7, 2016 to discuss the potential of converting Dexter Avenue/Vine Street to a four-way stop
 - The Board of Education was opposed to any change to the traffic control at the intersection because of the positive impact to queuing on Vine Street which resulted with the change in June, 2016
 - The City Council determined to keep the existing orientation of the stop signs

- On Monday to Tuesday, September 16-17, 2019, observations were repeated at the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street, matching the observations conducted in 2016.
 - The results of the 2018 observations as compared to the 2016 observations are included in Table 1, which compares the results from 2016 to 2019.
 - Results show that the percent of vehicles on Vine Street which stop when they should not stop has significantly decreased over the last 3 years
 - The percent of vehicles which failed to yield right-of-way on Dexter Avenue is similar from 2016 to 2019

Table 1
Observations from 2016 Compared to 2019 – Dexter Avenue/Vine Street Intersection

	<i>2016 Observations</i>		<i>2019 Observations</i>	
	<i>7:15-8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>2:45-3:15 p.m.</i>	<i>7:15-8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>2:45-3:15 p.m.</i>
Vehicles on Vine Street which stopped when they should not have stopped	20 out of 163 (12%)	15 out of 96 (16%)	4 out of 156 (3%)	7 out of 87 (8%)
Vehicles on Dexter Avenue which proceeded when they should have stopped	3 out of 47 (6%)	0 out of 38 (0%)	2 out of 47 (4%)	1 out of 34 (3%)

- Crash reports for the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street were obtained from the Mountain Brook Police Department. There were 8 recorded crashes at or near the intersection since June, 2016.
 - 5 of these crashes were not related to the intersection, but involved crashes such as hitting parked cars, backing out of parking spaces, hitting fixed objects, or rear-end crashes not at the intersection
 - 3 crashes occurred at the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street. The following is a summary of these three crashes
 - Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 1:03 p.m. A vehicle westbound on Dexter Avenue ran a stop sign and struck a vehicle northbound on Vine Street
 - Saturday, October 28, 2017, 11:20 a.m. A vehicle westbound on Dexter Avenue ran a stop sign and hit a vehicle northbound on Vine Street
 - Monday, September 17, 2018, 9:13 p.m. A vehicle westbound on Dexter Avenue ran a stop sign and hit a vehicle northbound on Vine Street
 - No injuries were reported for any crash
 - In summary, since the stop signs were reversed at the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street in June, 2016, there have been 3 right-angle crashes at the intersection which involved a driver running the stop sign
 - The October, 2016 report contains a statement that there was no crash history at this intersection for 3 years prior to the reversal of the stop signs.

Recommendations

- Just as in 2016, making a recommendation is difficult for this intersection because of the abnormal traffic pattern due to Crestline Elementary School.
 - A factor to consider is that every four-legged intersection on Dexter Avenue north of Vine Street is a four-way stop.
 - The only intersection on Dexter Avenue which is not a four-way stop is the three-legged intersection at Honeysuckle Lane
 - The analysis conducted in 2016 indicated that, if the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street were converted to a four-way stop, the maximum queue of vehicles on Vine Street would be six vehicles.
 - There have been three crashes with vehicles on Dexter Avenue failing to yield right-of-way to vehicles on Vine Street.
 - Therefore, the following recommendations are presented for consideration by the City:
1. Meet with representatives of the Board of Education and Crestline Elementary School staff to determine their current opinion regarding installing a four-way stop at the intersection of Dexter Avenue/Vine Street in light of this new information.
 2. Install stop signs on both approaches of Vine Street at the intersection of Dexter Avenue if the Board of Education does not have a compelling reason not to do so. This should include the following actions:
 - Add "All Way" placards to all four stop signs
 - Paint stop lines on both approaches of Vine Street
 - Install temporary signs (orange/black construction signs) on both approaches of Vine Street notifying drivers of the new stop signs
 3. Monitor the queue on Vine Street during school drop-off and pick-up times after implementation of the four-way stop. If queues are excessive, further mitigation efforts may be required.