



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Keis and Members of the City Council

FROM: Bill Dircks, Public Works Director

DATE: May 5, 2021

RE: Implement All-Way Stop at Eli/Desoto Intersection

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Motion to approve the implementation of an all-way stop at the intersection of Eli Road and Desoto Street.

BACKGROUND:

Eli Road and Desoto Street from Eli Road to Labore Avenue were reconstructed in 2009. At that time, there was a narrow, paved trail that ran on the west side of Desoto Street, curved onto Eli Road, ran on the north side of Eli, and then crossed Eli to the school property about 170 feet west of Desoto Street.

When the road was reconstructed it was decided that the sidewalk should be lined up with the intersection to make it safer than as a mid-block crosswalk. The old setup was an uncontrolled intersection with no stops or yields at all. The entire intersection was realigned with the reconstruction and the decision was made to have a stop condition coming out of the school parking lot, a yield condition for vehicles traveling eastbound, and no control for vehicles traveling southbound on Desoto. The idea was to try and keep it similar to what it had been in the past.

In the years since then, staff has received calls from school staff and others requesting an all-way stop condition at the intersection to help with school drop off and pickup times when there is quite a bit of traffic. A flashing crosswalk was added to add more visibility to the crosswalk and make it safer for the children. There is also an adult from the school staff that helps the children cross before and after school.

There have still been some near misses and more requests for a change in the intersection, so staff had Bolton & Menk conduct an analysis of the intersection to see if an all-way stop condition was warranted. The results of the analysis did confirm that an all-way stop condition is the best available setup for the intersection.

The addition of stop signs will necessitate the removal of the rapid flashing crosswalk sign system that is currently installed for the crosswalk. They cannot be used at controlled intersections. Staff contacted the principal of the school to make sure he and his staff was aware that the signs would be removed and he was ok with the changes and was grateful for the proposed changes and felt the intersection would be much safer.

Staff is proposing to change the intersection to an all-way stop condition and will flag the new signs for the first month or two to call attention to the change in the intersection. Staff can also install flashing stop signs as the new signs to make drivers more aware of the change in the intersection, but they may be disruptive to nearby homes. Staff will monitor the intersection and stay in communication with school officials to see if flashing signs are warranted.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

The cost to add two stop signs is less than \$200 and will be paid for using the Streets Operating Budget. City crews will install the signs and remove the rapid flashing crosswalk sign system. Those signs could be used at a different location in the City.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends the implementation of an all-way stop at the intersection of Eli Road and Desoto Street.

ATTACHMENTS:

Bolton & Menk Intersection Analysis
Aerial Views of the intersection prior to 2009 and in 2020