



East Buckeye  
Neighborhood Association

Date: October 24, 2010  
To: Alder Judy Compton  
Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission (PBMVC)  
From: East Buckeye Neighborhood Association Board  
Re: Traffic Light Meeting on October 26, 2010

Our board is writing to the PBMVC to request a traffic light for the intersection of East Buckeye Road and South Thompson, the road abutting the Interstate. We believe this intersection to be particularly dangerous and, as the commission acknowledges to be the case in certain situations, has additional factors which belie its 2009 ranking of 59 on the city's traffic signal priority list.

East Buckeye Road has consistently been a point of concern for the combination of heavy truck traffic coming from just east of the Interstate and two school crossing zones, including one just two blocks from the intersection. To help combat this, last year our neighborhood convened an after-school meeting at the Droster/Buckeye crosswalk with our alder, city traffic engineer, county engineer, Safer Communities, and the police department. The speed limit was subsequently reduced and flashing yellow school crossing lights installed. This has been helpful for residential traffic in particular. However, the heavy trucks, knowing our traffic guard will not stop them if they're traveling too fast, often speed up as they get closer to the crosswalk. In fact, the very nature of their business is to maximize the number of trips they make to a job site, in stark contrast to the interest of safety for residents. Our area lieutenant has periodically put the mobile speed board near this intersection and has picked up speeders (see photo 6) but this is only a short-term solution to a long-standing problem. Residents have continued to lob complaints about this heavy truck traffic to alder and police. Trucks weighing 6 tons with full payload continue to speed up and down the street, including across the school crossing zones populated with pedestrians.

The 2009 city data indicates there were no injuries and no property damage at this intersection. In fact, last year there was one motorcycle death here and this year a crash with serious injury to a motorcyclist witnessed by a toddler in the back seat of the car that hit him. In addition, one homeowner at that intersection removed her garden with partial fence altogether because it had been run into and destroyed (over the curb and over the sidewalk) so many times.

Two areas of particular concern to residents are the use of jake brakes by trucks as they come into town and the frequent and high acceleration of motorcycles going out of town. Although illegal, it's a reality. This is obviously both a noise and safety concern. We believe a four-way traffic light would eliminate this situation altogether.

Traffic heading south on South Thompson crossing Buckeye has a limited visual field looking east over the Interstate bridge. Traffic headed over this bridge and into town is notoriously going faster than the posted 30 mph because they're gaining speed as they go down the hill. This means the driver with limited vision crossing South Thompson has to edge forward beyond where he's supposed to stop in order to see this fast traffic coming into town (see photos 3 and 4 below).

In addition, there will be significant changes east of the Interstate, especially in the way of development and the extension of Sprecher Road to 12/18. Ideally, traffic will move along Sprecher. In reality, however, increase development will also increase traffic volumes, some of which will spill onto Buckeye, too.

Thus, given the chronic and long-standing nature of the South Thompson/Buckeye intersection, safety issues for pedestrians—children in particular, injuries, property damage, and with an eye to the future of this road, the East Buckeye Neighborhood Association is requesting a four-way traffic light at this location.

Please see photos included within this document, below.

We appreciate your time and consideration.



Photo 1: Intersection looking east on Buckeye over Interstate Bridge

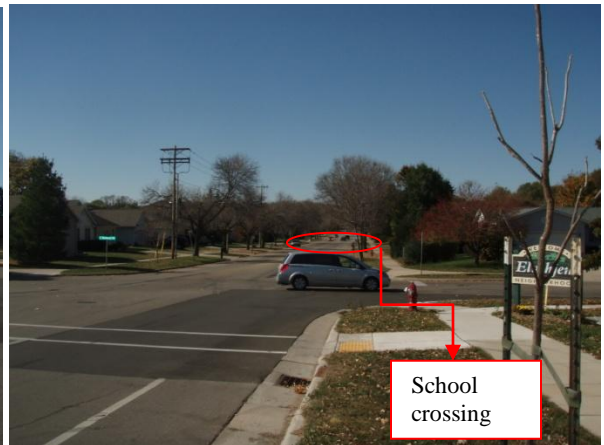


Photo 2: Intersection looking west on Buckeye



Photo 3: Looking east on Buckeye at the stop



Photo 4: Looking east on Buckeye beyond the stop (note the white line)



Photo 5: School crossing across E. Buckeye at Droster



Photo 6: Traffic after school has let out



Photo 7: Crosswalk at Buckeye and Droster