

AGENDA: TSC 8/6/12

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to establish NO PARKING on Massachusetts Street south of 23rd Street and provide a separate LEFT-TURN LANE for northbound traffic.

Facts:

1. 23rd Street is classified as an "arterial" street and Massachusetts Street is classified as a "local" street south of 23rd Street.
2. When the intersection was reconstructed in the 1990's, residents of the area indicated that they did not want a northbound left-turn lane if it meant the removal of on-street parking.
3. In order to provide a left-turn lane, parking will have to be removed from both sides of the street for approximately 150ft south of the intersection.

MINUTES: TSC 8/6/12

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING on Massachusetts Street south of 23rd Street and provide a separate LEFT-TURN LANE for northbound traffic.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Mike Sizemore, 2301 Massachusetts Street: I live right on the corner of 23rd & Massachusetts; there is overwhelming support in the neighborhood to do something at this intersection; there is a mis-alignment and trying to head north out of our neighborhood or turning west when traffic is stacked-up going south is a blind intersection and there have been a lot of wrecks; I appreciate your consideration of this and anything else that can be done beyond the no parking; this is where the majority of Haskell students come into the neighborhood.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Boley: I think it is a scary intersection; I tried turning left out of there and I understand the problem.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked if the only option was to remove the parking; Woosley advised that was the only way to get a left-turn lane there.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING NO PARKING ON MASSACHUSETTS STREET FOR

150 FEET SOUTH OF 23RD STREET AND PROVIDING A SEPARATE LEFT-TURN LANE FOR NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

From: 2jayarchs [mailto:2jayarchs@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 8:09 AM
To: David Woosley
Subject: 23rd and Mass intersection

David,

As referenced in some of our earlier correspondence, the residents of the Breezedale Neighborhood have grave concerns with the safety of the 23rd and Massachusetts intersection. It is of our opinion that the design of this intersection is a safety hazard to the tens of thousands who traverse it daily. Of our concerns that we feel need to be addressed immediately are as follows:

1. Due to the South-bound traffic stacked to turn east (and the misalignment of the intersection); South-bound vehicles passing through the intersection can't see north-bound vehicles turning west until they enter the intersection. Likewise, north-bound vehicles can't see south-bound vehicles until turning west-bound. As the signal cycle is relatively short for the north and south-bound traffic, and people are constantly trying to beat the light, this is a tragic situation waiting to happen.
2. With no lane markings south of 23rd street, north-bound traffic stacks up 2 wide. There is no consistency to how people use the "middle" lane - sometimes both "lanes" proceed north-bound, but often there are 4-5 west turns, then 1 random vehicle heading north. This is confusing to south-bound traffic, heading east, and has caused multiple accidents.
3. There is no protection for pedestrians crossing 23rd street. South-bound traffic turning east do not look for pedestrians (they are more focused on on-coming traffic, re #2), and frequently do not give way to pedestrians.
4. South-bound and north-bound traffic merging going west. North-bounders will assume the inside lane of 23rd is theirs for the taking. South-bounders believe they have the right of way to both lanes to make right turns.
5. East-bound vehicles turning north and west-bound vehicles turning south frequently underestimate how fast on-coming traffic is approaching, or believe they have a protected turn signal.

Obviously, we understand traffic control measures won't be able to address all of these problems, but we do believe it's possible to minimize many of these risks. It's no exaggeration that many of us in Breezedale fear for our safety every time we enter or leave our neighborhood.

From a personal perspective, living on this intersection has given my family front row seats to countless accidents. We have seen the aftermath of pedestrians and bicyclists hit, vehicles totaled and people carried off on stretchers. We have witnessed a utility pole severed, semi-tractor trailers run red lights, and disabled vehicles careen into our yard, with one vehicle even striking our house. Just this morning in fact, the paramedics were called to another serious accident.

Considering the semi-trucks, the high volume of traffic, the high rate of speed, the residential neighborhood, and the Haskell students all "colliding" at this intersection, we respectfully request a review of the 23rd and Massachusetts intersection and a plan be put in place for improvements to mitigate these hazards.

Respectfully,

Michael Sizemore (2301 Massachusetts)
on behalf of The Breezedale Neighborhood Association.

David Woosley

From: marymatthews@sunflower.com
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 6:41 PM
To: David Woosley
Subject: 23rd & Massachusetts - DANGEROUS INTERSECTION

We would like to ask you to please consider addition of a left turn lane and left turn signal on Northbound Massachusetts at the 23rd Street and Massachusetts Street intersection.

The repaving project which is underway this week created lots of discussion and emails among Breezedale neighborhood residents about the dangers of that intersection and possible solutions. It is difficult to turn left when it is IMPOSSIBLE to see oncoming traffic because of the mis-aligned lanes. This situation has resulted in many accidents over the years.

Massachusetts Street is certainly wide enough to accommodate a turn lane. Of course, that would mean eliminating street parking on Massachusetts from 23rd Street south for at least a few hundred feet, maybe more. And of course some in the neighborhood are opposed to eliminating any parking. In our opinion, however, having a safer intersection would be well worth the loss of some parking spots.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like us to put you in touch with others in the neighborhood who share our concern.

Mary and Rob Matthews

2401 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66046

843-6491(home)

865-8438 (cell)

Massachusetts St

E 23rd St

Massachusetts St

W 23rd St

Massachusetts St

