



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 – 7:30 PM

Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Adoption of meeting minutes from 3/20/19 Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting
3. Public Comment
4. Request by Patricia O'Connor at 240 Gale Avenue to modify the recently installed No Parking and 2-hr Parking restrictions on both sides of Linden Street (between Thatcher and Gale) to Resident Only Parking.
5. Request by Brett Gentile at 27 Keystone Avenue to install a No Left Turn restriction for eastbound Madison Street traffic turning north onto Keystone Avenue.
6. Request by Village Staff to re-configure the commuter parking areas near Thatcher Avenue.
7. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Rees, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Osga, Commissioner Jayaraman and Commissioner Wade.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 19, 2018 and October 17, 2018 Traffic and Safety Commission Meetings. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Osga seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

New Business – Request by Village Staff to install recommended parking restrictions in and around the 200-blocks of Thatcher Avenue, Gale Avenue, Keystone Avenue and Forest Avenue.

Veronica Auvinen lives at 241 Gale Avenue, the entrance to her home is on Linden Street. She noticed a higher number of cars are now parking on Linden. Currently they are only allowed to park between Gale Avenue and Thatcher Avenue, also on the 200 block of Gale Avenue. One of the recommendations would not allow cars to park on the north side of Linden Street, but would allow them to park on the south side of Linden Street between Thatcher Avenue and Forest Avenue. If that goes forward essentially all those commuters will be parking in front of her house. Since her home faces Linden Street about eight vehicles would be blocking her entire front.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer clarifies that those zones on Thatcher Avenue, on both sides of her property are Resident Permit Zones. Only residents within these areas get the permits to park in this area. Therefore, commuters from other parts from the Village will not be able to park there.

Ms. Auvinen thanks the committee for the clarification and for their time.

Commissioner Cleary made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wade to install recommended parking restrictions in and around the 200-blocks of Thatcher Avenue, Gale Avenue, Keystone Avenue and Forest Avenue.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

New Business – Request by Rachel Glick of 703 Bonnie Brae to install some form of traffic calming measure at the intersection of Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue.

Mark Christensen from 632 Bonnie Brae Place has lived there for sixteen years. He begins by stating how Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae Place are used for purposes other than vehicles. Oak Avenue is the community Broadway for joggers. Both streets are used as recreational bike paths for residents of all ages. Mr. Christensen is certain the curb extensions create a gauntlet that forces runners and bicyclists into a narrow area competing with cars. He considers how the volume of traffic has increased at this intersection due to the restrictions of movement of cars on adjacent arterial streets. Mr. Christensen lives in the cut through speed way of River Forest, calming the intersection without addressing the underlying cause of the volume of traffic will only result in traffic backing up. Trusts the traffic evaluation in regards to the volume of traffic is not comprehensive. Safety can be achieved with striping and aggressive police enforcement. Clarifies he is opposed to the addition of stop signs as well as to curb extensions which narrow the roads.

Rachel Glick resides at 703 Bonnie Brae Place, she is concerned about the volume and speed of the cars driving through Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae Place. In the petition she created she asks for some method of calming measure to slow down vehicles. Find a way to help them understand what to do in this slightly confusing intersection. Inquires what can be done to increase the safety at the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Oak Avenue. There are many motorists making illegal left turns leading to constant accidents.

Daniel Lauber from 7215 Oak Avenue, he has lived in River Forest for thirty-one years. He is addressing the intersection of Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue as well as Oak Avenue and Harlem Avenue. He thinks it's a good practice to use the least drastic means to achieve goals. The goal being to slow traffic and promote safety. Mr. Lauber suggests implementing the two least drastic recommendations and allow six months to a year to see how it works. He is very concerned with the idea of narrowing the streets. Vehicles are getting wider and larger making it tougher to get around. Enhanced lighting at this intersection could aid the cause. Considers Harlem Avenue and Oak Avenue to be a more serious intersection. Drivers are constantly making left turns coming out of McDonald's or Chase Bank. Even though there is a "No Left Turn" sign when you exit. Mr. Lauber proposes the committee considers making Oak Avenue a right turn only. Furthermore, replacing the "No Left Turn" signs with "Right Turn Only" and adding arrows to the right. Suggests installing some red-light cameras to catch all the drivers making the illegal left turns.

Shalondon Christensen lives at 632 Bonnie Brae. There is a lot of traffic in the mornings and in the evenings at this area. Believes the biggest issue is Harlem Avenue. Motorists cut through when traffic backs up while someone is trying to make that left turn on Oak. She hates going down Chicago Avenue, she thinks it's very dangerous with the narrow streets. Ms. Christensen would hate to see those new curbs on Bonnie Brae and Oak Avenue, it would change the neighborhood.

Megan Hunkele from 700 Bonnie Brae states they have more crosswalks than most streets. In her opinion the western and eastern most crosswalks are the least used. People are most likely to use the crosswalks that do not have the stop signs or striping, making it more dangerous. Ms. Hunkele advises putting a small sign under the stop sign reading "staggered four way stop" which can alert drivers of a stop sign coming up. In addition, she is against the narrowing of the street, considers this can make everything more hazardous.

Veronica Auvinen doesn't live around this area, but does drive around the area frequently. She has noted driving on Bonnie Brae north that drivers on Oak Avenue do not stop. She has made hard stops before because drivers do not see her. Whatever the committee can do for risk mitigation for the residents and the drivers would be greatly appreciated.

Daniel Lauber suggests eliminating the crosswalks being used the most that are presently not striped on the 700 block of Bobbie Brae. This would steer the people away to use the regular crosswalks.

Commissioner Osga tells Mr. Lauber that he is in agreement with his original statement of starting slow and using the least aggressive methods first. Agrees any decrease of the size of the roadway is a bad idea. Striping is a great start, it will automatically do something over in that intersection. Considers incorporating signage stating "Oncoming Traffic does not Stop" west and east bound on Oak Avenue and Bonnie Brae.

Chairman Rees questions the commission if there is a greater interest in striping all of the crosswalks, rather than eliminating the farther east and west crosswalks on Oak in favor of the interior crosswalks?

Commissioner Gillis has the idea of striping all the crosswalks the way it sits. Add to the stop signs on Bonnie Brae some wording "Traffic from Right does not Stop". On Bonnie Brae below both stop signs add "Traffic on Right does not Stop". On the Oak Ave side add "Oncoming Traffic does not Stop".

Commissioner Wade made the motion, second by Commissioner Osga to add four striped crosswalks on Oak Avenue.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Commissioner Gillis made the motion, second by Chairman Rees to add crosswalk signage as viewed in alternative one.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Commissioner Osga made the motion, second by Chairman Rees to add signage to the stop signs "Oncoming traffic does not Stop" at Bonnie Brae Place and Oak Avenue.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M. All commissioners present voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line

Doug Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date:

DRAFT

All 4 Residents of the Block Between Gale & Thatcher

1. Neil & Patricia O'Connor (708) 363-2109
240 Gale
2. Joen Kinnan (708) 366-8573
241 Thatcher
3. Ron & Diane Peters (708) 203-1042
302 Gale Ave
4. Corona & Monique Tucker (773) 261-2114
301 Thatcher

Dear Village Board,

Below please find enclosed our request on behalf of all residents of the Linden street block between Gale and Thatcher.

BACKGROUND: After a discussion between all of us, we know that no resident of our block requested any type of zoning or parking restrictions for our block. Furthermore, none of us have any recollection of receiving any notice of any kind prior to the new signs being installed on our block. That said, we all agree that having a “no parking sign” on one side of our street and only a “two-hour parking sign” on the other side of our street is onerous and inappropriate. All of us have been residents of this block between 15 to 50 years ago. We all know each other and take care of each other. We are older and need to be able to park outside of our own back doors. We have care givers, house cleaners, and out-of-town children who come to visit us for more than two hours. If we have errands like groceries to bring in. Because of the new signs, we now have to put our cars back right away and/or walk across the street and then have to drive our cars back to our detached garages rather than leave them outside our own back doors before we run later errands in the day like doctor appointments, grocery shopping, meetings, etc. Particularly in the winter when there is ice and snow, these signs will definitely add an element of danger, to us that is quite unnecessary.

OUR REQUEST: We are requesting that if the village absolutely needs and insists on parking restrictions both in front and on the side of our houses, that the block of Linden between Gale and Thatcher have the present signs [No Parking and Two-hour parking] removed and replaced with [resident parking only] signs similar to what is on the rest of the block on Linden.

We live here and we need close and proximate use of our own entranceway doors to our homes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patti O'Connor
On behalf of all affected residents.

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): Remove 2 hour parking on Linden and put in resident
parking only as it is on rest of Linden
Remove

[illegible]

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)

EXISTING CONDITIONS



WASHINGTON BLVD



Legend

- No Parking Zone
- Permit Parking Zone
- Resident Parking Permit Zone
- Time Limit Parking Zone
- Loading Zone
- Student Loading Zone
- Daily Parking Zone
- Accessible Parking Zone
- Resident Parking Zone
- No Stopping, Standing, or Parking Zone
- Business Parking Permit Zone
- Recently Implemented Parking Zone

Jeff Loster

From: Brett Gentile [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 2:45 PM
To: Jeff Loster
Subject: Re: Traffic and Safety Commission

Good afternoon Jeff,

Thank you for spending some time to walk me through this whole process. This is to confirm my request, in writing, to hopefully install a 'no left turn' sign from traffic going Eastbound on Madison from turning North on Keystone. The neighbors and I have noticed that there are many cars quickly cutting off Madison and going down our block since Eastbound traffic seems to back up around our street. In addition, we think our street, in particular, is being used as a fast cut-through, since Forest stops at Washington and does not go through. We have at least 6 special needs children on our block, and I am worried along with the neighbors. I will spend some time gathering signatures and hopefully be able to submit those so there's time for the September meeting.

Thank you again,

Brett

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): installing a no-left-turn-sign on Madison to Keystone to stop so many fast drivers from going north on Keystone

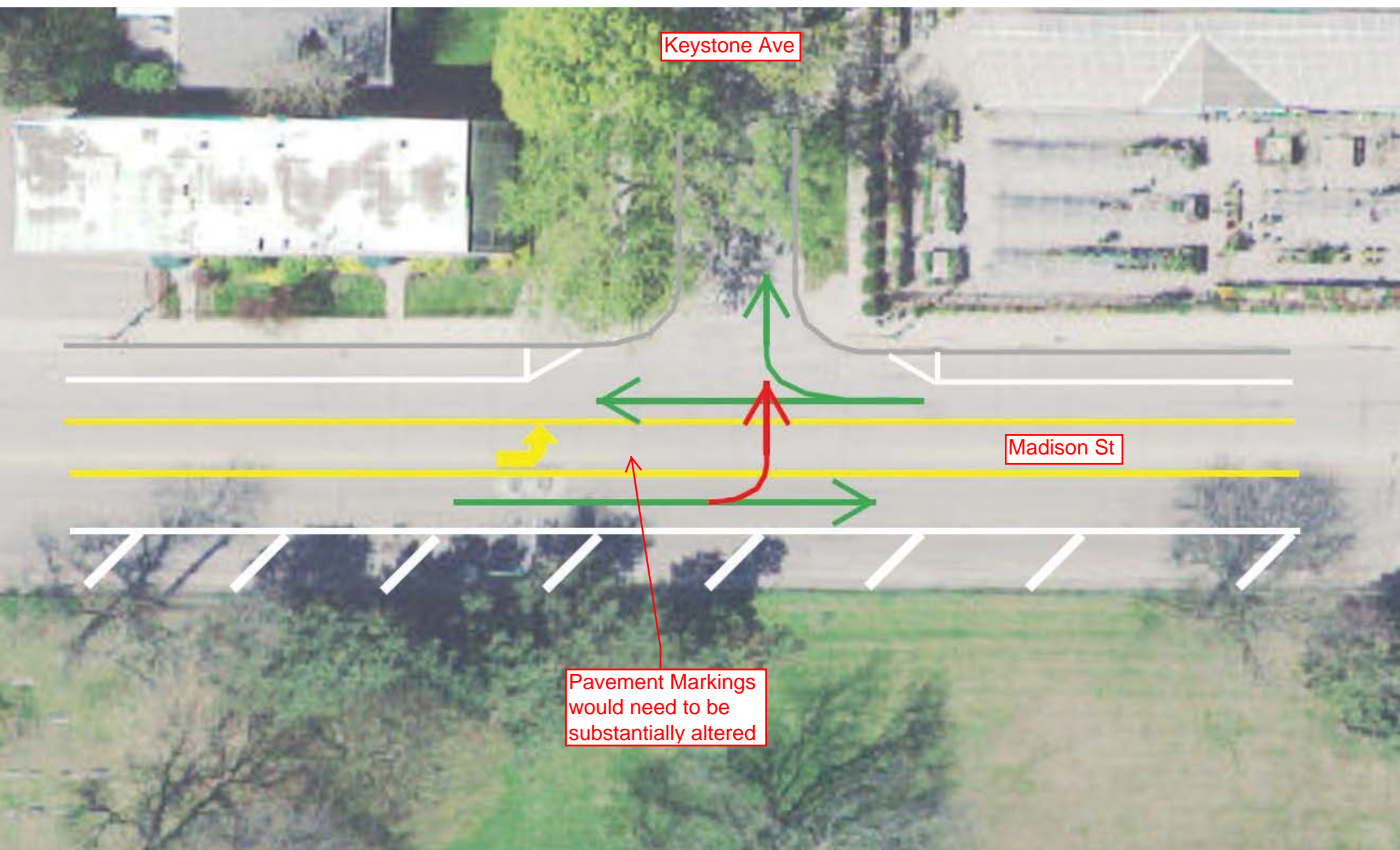
Name	Address	Date	Signature
Brett Gentile	27 Keystone, RF	8/15/19	Brett Gentile
Marylen Marty-Gentile	719 Monroe, RF	8/15/19	Marylen Marty-Gentile
Barb Martin	240 Forest RF	8/15/19	Barb Martin
Sarah Thomas	38 Keystone RF	8/15/19	S Thomas
Susan Charrette	42 Keystone RF	8/15/19	Susan Charrette
Melissa	719 Monroe RF	8/15/19	Melissa
Pam Lawrence	522 Jackson Ave RF	8/19/19	Pamela Lawrence
Courtland Madath	142 Keystone	8/24/19	Courtland Madath
Peta Groeman	19 Keystone	8/24/19	Peta Groeman
Ray Cullen	27 Keystone	8-24-19	Ray Cullen
Betsy Ryan	138 Keystone	8-24-19	Betsy Ryan
Heather Brauckman	22 Keystone	8/24/19	Heather Brauckman
Renee Schlar	130 Keystone	8/24/19	Renee Schlar
Melissa Gorman	19 Keystone	8/24/19	Melissa Gorman
Kathy Tsibovich	101 Keystone	8/24/19	Kathy Tsibovich
Chad Tsibovich	101 Keystone	8/24/19	Chad Tsibovich
Matt Heffern	135 Keystone	8/24/19	Matt Heffern
Jim MO	106 Keystone	8/24/19	Jim MO
Laurella Madath	107 Keystone Ave	8/24/19	Laurella Madath
KATE FINNERAN	1925 WASHINGTON BLVD	8/24/19	KATE FINNERAN

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)

Keystone Ave

Madison St

Pavement Markings
would need to be
substantially altered





MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2019

TO: Traffic and Safety Commission

FROM: Jeff Loster, Village Engineer

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Commuter Parking Designations and Fees

Issue: Village Staff has reevaluated the existing commuter parking designations for Metra commuters. Additionally, there are recommendations for scooter parking, based on customer feedback.

Staff is seeking your input and a recommendation on both of these items.

Analysis: The Village provides various parking options to residents and non-residents in and around the Depot parking lot.

The available spaces are located in four main areas:

1. The east Thatcher parking lot (monthly permit – resident only)
2. The west Thatcher parking lot (monthly permit – resident only)
3. Hawthorne Avenue between Thatcher and Keystone (monthly permit – resident only)
4. Hawthorne Avenue east of Keystone (daily fee – all customers)
5. Central Avenue east of Keystone (daily fee – all customers)
6. Central Avenue west of Thatcher (daily fee – all customers)

The current commuter rates are as follows:

Daily Metra Commuter Parking - \$5.00

Monthly Metra Commuter Permit Parking (resident only) - \$50.00

All current monthly permit parking spaces are completely sold out, however, many spaces are not used on a daily basis. This results in many underutilized open spaces throughout the day as they are essentially reserved for those with monthly parking permits. The Village does oversell the monthly permits by about 20%. Despite that, we currently have approximately 25 people on a waiting list for a monthly permit. One piece of feedback we receive on a continual basis is from residents who are frustrated that they are unable to get a permit and are forced to pay the daily \$5.00 fee. If on average, those people utilize commuter parking approximately 15 times per month, they would be paying \$75.00 vs. \$50.00 with a monthly permit. Based on this feedback and underutilization, Staff has looked at our current structure and is proposing some changes to our commuter parking structure. These changes are listed as follows:

1. Create a new “premium permit” zone which would consist of the commuter spaces in the east Thatcher lot as well as the Hawthorne spaces between Thatcher and Keystone. These spaces would be “guaranteed” and we would not oversell these spaces. These premium spaces would be sold as a monthly permit to residents only and would cost \$100.00 per month.

The interior rows of parking in the Depot parking lot and the parallel spaces on the north side of Hawthorne Ave. between Thatcher and Keystone provide a total of 50 spaces that would convert from standard monthly permit parking to premium permit parking spaces.

2. The remainder of all other monthly permit parking areas and daily areas would remain available as both monthly permit and daily fee parking. The standard monthly permit and daily parking fees would remain unchanged. We would sell unlimited monthly parking permits to residents for this purpose. So for example, you could park in the west Thatcher lot or along Central Avenue for either \$5.00 a day or \$50.00 a month.

This plan could generate a waiting list for the new premium spaces, but would eliminate the waiting list for the standard permits.

Staff is seeking your feedback on this proposed plan. Once a draft plan is finalized, we would then make the plan available for input from commuters and residents to solicit feedback before making any final changes.

Scooter Parking

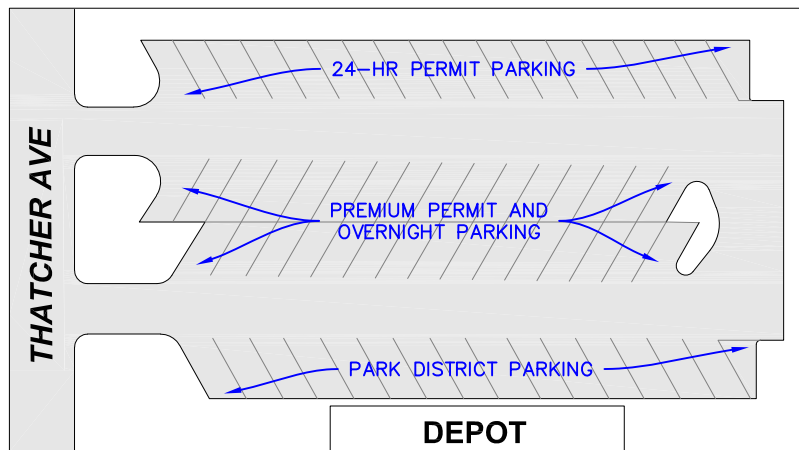
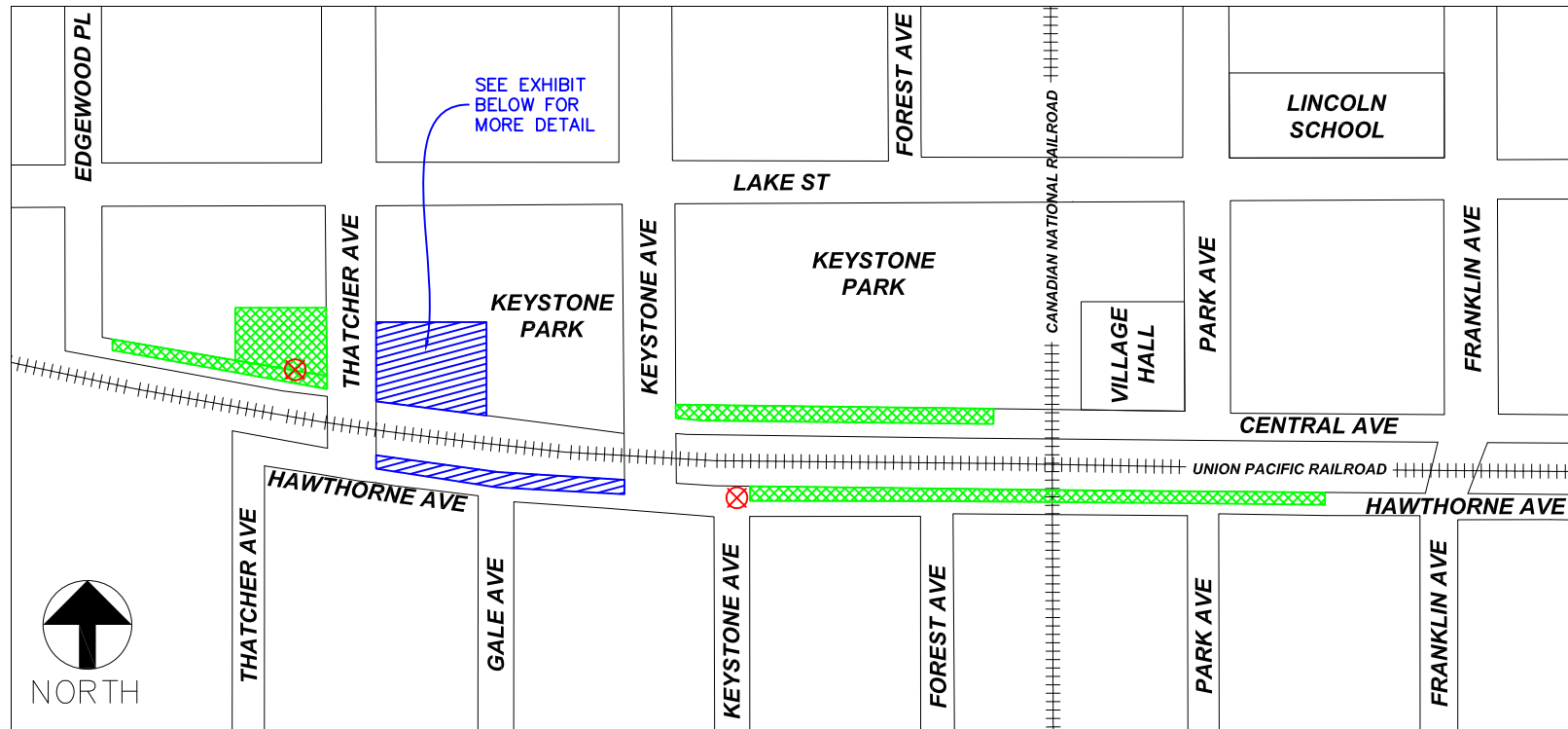
Staff is also seeking to designate a lower rate for scooter and motorcycle parking as well as create a new zone for those users. Currently, scooter/motorcycle users pay the same daily rate as regular cars.

In essence, there is not much of an incentive to park in a scooter space other than possible closer access as the fees is the same. The daily rate for scooters/motorcycles is proposed to be reduced from \$5.00 per day to \$2.50 per day and the creation of a monthly permit rate from \$50.00 per month to \$25.00 per month. An additional dedicated parking location will be installed on a parking pad behind the curb on Central Ave. next to the West Thatcher lot (as seen in the attached commuter parking map). This is currently a bicycle rack that is not utilized. The curb would be cut and an apron installed to allow for access.


Recommendation: Village Staff is seeking your input and feedback on these changes. Staff is seeking a recommendation to the Village Board on these matters. Once a plan is a finalized, Staff would make the proposed changes available for public input before anything is finalized.


Attachments: Proposed Commuter Parking Designation Exhibit

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST COMMUTER PARKING MAP



 **Monthly Permit and Daily Fee Areas**
(\$5/day or \$50/month)

 **Premium Permit Area**
(\$100/month)

 **Designated Scooter/
Motorcycle Parking**
(\$2.50/day or \$25/month)