



City of Arts & Innovation

Transportation Board

TO: TRANSPORTATION BOARD **DATE: JANUARY 4, 2023**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARD: 2**

SUBJECT: ABERNATHY DRIVE AT PERTHSIRE PLACE – TEMPORARY CUL-DE-SAC PILOT PROJECT

ISSUE:

Consideration of implementation of a temporary cul-de-sac six-month pilot project at the westerly end of Abernathy Drive at its intersection with Perthshire Place.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Transportation Board review and provide recommendation to the Infrastructure & Mobility Committee regarding the potential temporary cul-de-sac six-month pilot project at the westerly end of Abernathy Drive at its intersection with Perthshire Place.

BACKGROUND:

Perthshire Place residents have been communicating with the City's Public Works Department, Riverside Police Department, and City Council's Office Ward 2 regarding ongoing concerns with traffic, parking, noise, trash and debris, and after-hours park use generated by Sycamore Highlands Park patrons as well as patrons participating in illegal and illicit activities within their neighborhood. Residents previously worked with the Public Works Department to implement a Preferential Parking Zone (PPZ) on Perthshire Place between Abernathy Drive and Speyside Road to maintain availability of on-street parking for residents and their guests. Despite the existing PPZ, Perthshire Place residents continue to raise concerns regarding park patron impacts to their neighborhood including continual violations of the posted PPZ restriction, increased traffic volumes and speeds, elevated and late hour noise, disposal of trash and debris, and frequent illegal and illicit activities within their neighborhood.

Sycamore Highlands Park is not equipped with a parking lot, requiring patrons to park on-street. Various curb paint and posted parking and/or stopping restrictions exist within the area to alleviate impacts to the nearby residential neighborhoods and deter after-hours park use. Public Works Parking Services Division has performed patrol and parking enforcement during business hours and the Riverside Police Department has performed patrol and enforcement of parking and other violations after traditional business hours to address and deter illegal parking and other activities. Despite this, citation history shows that violations and negative impacts

continue.

Residents also state that Sycamore Highlands Park which was built with the intention of providing a small recreation area for the local walking community is now experiencing elevated use by patrons residing outside of their community. These changes have led to heavy after-hours park use and an increase in negative impacts to their adjacent neighborhood.

DISCUSSION:

Due to ongoing Perthshire Place resident concerns regarding the adjacent park-related impacts to their neighborhood, and discussions at a Ward 2 Council's Office neighborhood meeting, the Public Works Department agreed to consider a 6-month temporary cul-de-sac pilot project at the westerly end of Abernathy Drive at its intersection with Perthshire Place if supported by residents. The Public Works Department subsequently received a petition of support from one hundred percent (100%) of the eleven (11) residents on Perthshire Place requesting implementation of a temporary cul-de-sac pilot project at the westerly end of Abernathy Drive at its intersection with Perthshire Place. The proposed temporary cul-de-sac pilot project improvements would effectively prohibit westbound left-turns from Abernathy Drive onto southbound Perthshire Place and northbound right turns from Perthshire Place onto eastbound Abernathy Drive. Residents claim that these restrictions will help deter park patrons from illegally parking on Perthshire Place and participating in illicit activities described earlier. The temporary pilot project would enable the Public Works Department to evaluate effectiveness, hear resident, park patron, public, and service provider comments, and further assess the impacts of the temporary cul-de-sac including changes in traffic volumes and patterns, parking, and overall effects. The pilot project would also allow residents to experience the results and any changes in their routes to and from their homes and to Sycamore Highlands Park.

The residents emphasize the importance of eliminating pedestrian access at the sidewalk connection at the intersection of Perthshire Place and Abernathy Drive to further deter illegal park patron parking along Perthshire Place and walking to and from the park. If supported, this could be accomplished by placing water filled barricades across the sidewalk and signage closing sidewalk access at this point which would require use of alternate routes by pedestrians and may require pedestrians to cross the street to access sidewalk facilities on the opposite side of the streets. Residents living on Perthshire Place, Speyside Drive, Bannock Drive, and Cannich Road will still be able to access Sycamore Canyon Park via the sidewalk on Fair Isle Drive.

The Public Works Department supports developing creative alternatives to mitigate traffic and parking impacts. However, it is important to note that the temporary cul-de-sac pilot project will also result in potential negative impacts to the community and park patrons, including the loss of approximately 6 to 7 on-street parking spaces within the project area due to placement of pilot project improvements and related installation of red curb (most of which are currently available to park patrons), the shifting of residential traffic entering/exiting Perthshire Place to nearby streets, potential use of alternate routes by residents within the connecting neighborhoods, and aesthetic effects which may be undesired by area residents.

Due to possible impacts to standard and emergency services as well as park use and access, the Public Works Department consulted with the City's Fire Department, Solid Waste Division,

and Parks and Recreation Department regarding the potential pilot project. Fire Department preliminary comments included concerns regarding proposed improvement design which does not provide the standard minimum fire apparatus turning radius dimensions. Fire Department recommended consideration of a modified design to square off Abernathy Drive to provide a larger turn-around on Perthshire Place due to the length of the street and concerns related to backing-up on the approximate 970' long roadway and/or use of red curb fire lanes to meet turn around requirements. Additionally, Fire Department advised that they have previously responded to several fires in Sycamore Canyon via the west side of Sycamore Highlands Park to access the wildland areas and noted that both streets are important in emergency response and apparatus placement and reducing turnaround radius on the north end of Perthshire Place will cause delays in emergency response vehicle deployments and repositioning during an incident. The Public Works Department will consider all design alternatives to maximize available turning radius within the existing footprint of the intersection if the temporary pilot project is approved for implementation.

Input received from the Solid Waste Division regarding the potential pilot project indicates that the temporary improvements would impede the required turning radius for solid waste vehicles (a minimum of 34 feet for the inside wheel and 50 feet for the outside wheel per industry standards). Solid Waste Division also noted that vehicles parked along the street during park hours would also impede the turning radius for their trucks. Consequently, solid waste vehicle ease of access would be impacted, potentially requiring modifying current routes, increasing travel time for completion of routes and requiring trucks to make multi-point turns or back-up to exit the latter of which could create safety concerns. Additionally, Solid Waste Division noted that impacts to street sweeping services are also anticipated as the result of the temporary pilot project improvements requiring hand cleaning on a less frequent likely quarterly basis. Sweeping services are currently performed by a single operator and sweeper unit within approximately 5 to 10 minutes. Hand sweeping service would present challenges as it would require several pieces of equipment, multiple personnel, and is expected to take a couple of hours to clean due to the accumulation of debris/material. Costs associated with the performance of hand sweeping services during the six-month pilot project are estimated to be minor due to the duration of the pilot project which would require 2 quarterly hand cleanings throughout the pilot project. Parks and Recreation Department was also consulted due to the proximity to Sycamore Highlands Park and potential impacts to park patrons and advised that they have no objections to the potential six-month pilot project.

To provide some insight into the degree of overflow Sycamore Highlands Park parking impacts on the Perthshire Place neighborhood and required City services to address parking violations, the Public Works Department performed an analysis of parking citations issued along Perthshire Place and at or near the intersection of Perthshire Place and Abernathy Drive for a one-year period from November 29, 2021 through November 29, 2022. The citation data showed the following:

Parking Violation / Citation Type	# of Parking Citations Issued
1.52.140(c) / Zone Permit Required (PPZ)	371
1.52.030(a) / Street Sweeping	11
1.52.030(b,c,d,e) / Stop/Stand/Park Prohibited	67
1.52.075(a) / Alley Parking	1
222502(a) 18" From Curb	1
Total Parking Citations Issued 11-29-21 to 11-29-22	451

Citations issued for Preferential Parking Zone (PPZ) violations were exclusively issued on Perthshire Place where a No Parking Any Time PPZ is in place and citation numbers for the 12-month period indicate high PPZ violation levels. Street sweeping violations were minimal and stopping, standing and parking prohibited violations which would include violations of red curb and posted parking restrictions on Abernathy Drive were minor.

Further assessment of citations issued during the same one-year period within the neighborhood showed the following:

Parking Citation Specifics	# of Parking Citations Issued
Citations Issued During Typical Business Hours: (7:30am-5:00pm) Weekdays	96
Citations Issued After Typical Business Hours:(5:00p.m-7:00am) Weekdays and Weekends	355
Citations Issued by Parking Services Division Staff	46
Citations Issued by Riverside Police Department	405

Data shows that parking citations issued within the neighborhood after typical business hours are over 3 ½ times greater than those issued during typical business hours demonstrating some degree of park patron use of Sycamore Highlands Park outside of allowed park hours. Due to seasonal changes effecting when dusk hours arrive determining parking closing time it is difficult to determine actual after-hours park use levels. The high number of citations issued by Riverside Police Department (RPD) personnel indicate that RPD officers patrolling and/or responding to non-emergency dispatch calls related to parking violations after typical business hours. This raises the issue of RPD officer resources being expended to address ongoing parking violations within the Perthshire Place neighborhood and pointing to a need for alternative measures to deter violations.

To allow for evaluation of impacts should the temporary 6-month cul-de-sac pilot project be implemented, the Public Works Department would conduct before and after traffic studies to determine traffic volumes on select area streets, analyze effectiveness, assess impacts to residents, park patrons, and standard and emergency services, and receive public comments prior to further consideration of pilot project extension and/or permanent improvements. A neighborhood meeting would also be conducted at the conclusion of the 6-month pilot project to receive resident input regarding the project and to gauge resident support for pilot project extension and/or potential permanent improvements.

It should be noted that if the pilot project is approved and the results are successful, a permanent solution would take potentially several years to construct. First a funding source would need to be identified and programmed. Due to the concerns raised by the Fire Department and Solid Waste Department, both Perthshire Place and Abernathy Drive would have to be reconstructed with cul-de-sac designs consistent with City Standards. Therefore, the permanent design may look entirely different than the proposed pilot project. The permanent design would require the dedication of right-of-way from the park as well as potentially from the residential properties at 5821, 5828, and 5812 Perthshire Place. Furthermore, there are concerns with the feasibility of a permanent closure of a public sidewalk.

An alternative option available to residents to reduce or eliminate traffic, parking, trash and debris, and illegal and illicit activity within their neighborhood generated by Sycamore Highlands Park would involve the street vacation process whereby residents would work with

the City's Planning Department to vacate and privatize their street. If this option is pursued residents would be responsible for applicable street vacation fees as well as any future maintenance and repairs once the street is officially private.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This proposal follows Strategic Plan Goal 2.4, to "Support programs and innovations that enhance community safety, encourage neighborhood engagement, and build public trust." Additionally, proposed signage relates to the cross-cutting threads as demonstrated below:

1. Community Trust: This temporary pilot project will support community involvement in seeking alternative potential resolutions to ongoing neighborhood traffic and parking issues generated by Sycamore Highlands Park patrons while still allowing patrons to continue to easily access and enjoy the park site.
2. Equity: The proposed temporary 6-month cul-de-sac pilot project improvements would balance the needs of the immediately impacted residential neighborhoods and park patrons.
3. Fiscal Responsibility: City Streets Division crews would utilize materials including water filled barricades currently in stock at the City Corporation Yard and fabricate and install necessary signage to implement the temporary 6-month cul-de-sac pilot project to minimize project costs. The temporary improvements are fiscally responsible to allow for further assessment of effectiveness and overall impacts prior to considering more costly permanent improvements. Though increased costs associated with quarterly hand street sweeping services which may be necessary as the result of the temporary pilot project would be incurred, the temporary pilot project would require only 2 hand sweeping services due to the 6-month project duration. It is also anticipated that the pilot project would deter PPZ parking violations along Perthshire Place reducing the need for both Parking Services and Riverside Police Department personnel patrol and enforcement, thereby reducing associated costs.
4. Innovation: This project supports innovative measures to mitigate traffic and parking impacts and preserve neighborhood safety and quality of life in highly impacted areas. The temporary pilot project permits staff and the community to evaluate impacts, if any, and make an informed decision to remove improvements or to make the improvements permanent.
5. Sustainability & Resiliency: The proposed temporary improvements are easily installed and maintained by City Streets Division crews throughout the proposed 6-month pilot project period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Water filled barricade materials to be utilized to implement the temporary cul-de-sac pilot project are currently in stock at the City's Corporation Yard and costs of deployment by City crews would be minimal. The cost of sign fabrication and installation is estimated to be \$3,375. Funding is available in the existing Public Works, General Fund, Streets Maintenance Division, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143, to cover this cost. Costs related to hand crew quarterly street sweeping maintenance of the area are anticipated to be minor due to the short term 6-month duration of the pilot project.

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Attachments:

1. Site Map
2. Aerial Map
3. Pilot Project Exhibit
4. Presentation