



Kevin Burke <kburkeorg@gmail.com>

Low visibility turn onto Old County Road

Rafael Galvez <rafael.galvez@primegrp.com>

Mon, Sep 25, 2017 at 10:42 AM

To: Douglas Kim - Vice Mayor <dkim@belmont.gov>, Kevin Burke <kev@inburke.com>, Brian Dong <bdong@belmont.gov>, x-Public Works <pworks@belmont.gov>

Cc: Galina Kravtchenko <galina.kravtchenko@primegrp.com>

Hi Doug, Kevin beat me to this – I was talking to my neighbor south of us (Old County Rd Apartments), the manager (Scott Teaforde) had the city paint longer lines there, in fact his “no-parking” lines are twice as long.

I have attached a picture of my visibility when driving out (it's scary)

I have witnessed 2 car accidents related to the lack of visibility since I started working here a year ago. I'm sure there has been more that Belmont PD can tell us about.

Extending the red lines is something that works for a particular community in terms of having more reaction time.

I also believe we have a speeding problem here and speed bumps forces drivers to slow down.

Respectfully,

Rafael Galvez

Community Manager | Prime Residential |

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From: Douglas Kim - Vice Mayor [mailto:dkim@belmont.gov]

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:31 AM

To: Kevin Burke <kev@inburke.com>; Brian Dong <bdong@belmont.gov>; x-Public Works

<pworks@belmont.gov>

Cc: Galina Kravtchenko <galina.kravtchenko@primegrp.com>; Rafael Galvez <rafael.galvez@primegrp.com>

Subject: Re: Low visibility turn onto Old County Road

Brian,

I'd like your assessment of this situation. I know parked cars can certainly limit visibility and removing street parking can help but I've not looked at this driveway issue here.

Thanks

Doug

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From: Kevin Burke <kev@inburke.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 8:13:56 PM

To: Douglas Kim - Vice Mayor; Brian Dong; x-Public Works

Cc: Galina Kravtchenko; Rafael Galvez

Subject: Low visibility turn onto Old County Road

To: Doug Kim, Belmont Vice Mayor

Brian Dong, Traffic Safety Committee Liaison

Belmont Public Works Dept

CC: Galina Kravtchenko & Rafael Galvez, Madison Belmont Apartments

I live at the Madison Belmont Apartments, and my girlfriend and I turn onto Old County Rd via the driveway at [635/6399 Old County Road](#), pictured here:



About 300 Belmont residents share this same driveway. Making a left or right turn out of this driveway feels unsafe at any time of day or night. It is really difficult to see cars approaching on Old County Road, due to the cars parked immediately

to the right of the driveway, and in the position occupied by the blue car in the photo. There are almost always cars parked in these positions, because they are prime parking spots for the Madison Belmont apartments.

The easiest way to observe the problem is to try to make a left or right turn out of the driveway on a weekday around 8-9am or 5-6pm. I encourage you to try this. To see the approaching traffic, you have to inch out far enough that the hood of your car is in oncoming traffic. I resort to trying to see cars approaching from the left in the reflections of cars parked across the street. Suffice to say, that is not very safe.

I am not a road safety expert, but I did do some reading on the relevant standards. The relevant safety metric appears to be the **corner sight distance** (for making a turn) or **stopping sight distance** (to allow a car on Old County Road to stop). The speed limit on Old County Road is (supposed to be) 30 mph, though cars frequently exceed this. The [Caltrans Highway Design Manual](#) (page 1) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials' guideline "[Geometric Design of Highways and Streets](#)" (page 112) both recommend, for a target speed of 30mph, a minimum corner sight distance of 200 feet.

I eyeballed the corner sight distance for this driveway. For cars approaching from the left, I generously measured a corner sight distance of 45 paces, roughly 150 feet. For cars approaching from the right, I measured 20 paces, or 60 feet. These are 50 feet and 140 feet short of the recommended guidelines, and those guidelines assume cars are traveling 30mph, which they frequently exceed.

I would feel a lot better, and imagine the risk of a collision would be reduced, if we could make the driveway safer. Specifically, any of the following would likely increase safety:

- **Increase the red curb areas to the left and right of the driveway**, so the corner sight distance is at least 200 feet. The effect of this would be to push one or two cars from right in front of the apartments to an area further down Old County toward Marine View Ave. There are frequently empty parking spaces near Marine View Ave; I would be fine walking an extra hundred yards to my car in exchange for a safer turn out.

- **Designate areas closest to the driveway as "commercial loading only."** Uber/Lyft are really popular with Madison Belmont residents, if those spaces in front of the building were only available for cars to park for short durations, this would increase visibility and make it safer a lot of the time for cars turning onto the main road.

- **Add mirrors across the street** so it's easier to see oncoming traffic in each direction.

- **Add a median** so the driveway is right turn only. I wouldn't be too happy with this, but it would be all right if there was an opportunity to do a U-turn shortly after merging.

- **Charge more for on- and off-street parking.** This would help fund road improvements and increase the number of vacant spaces and the visibility on the road. Charging more for off-street parking (e.g. at the Madison Apartments) would reduce the demand for parking spaces, and hopefully allow the Madison to offer more off-street guest parking. (It would also likely increase the demand for public transit, which is great but a secondary concern).

- **Increase speed enforcement on Old County Road**, though any effects here are likely to last only as long as speed is enforced.

- **Add speed bumps**, this is a non starter as Old County is a major thoroughfare.

Thanks very much for your consideration, I'm happy to meet to discuss further, rally support among neighbors, or speak in favor of these changes at the relevant committee meeting.

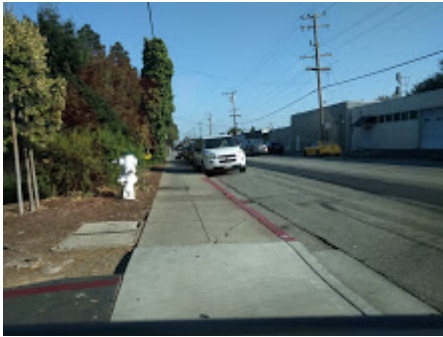
Best,

Kevin

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Kevin Burke

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