

SELBY/SARATOGA BUMPOUT REMOVAL AND RIGHT TURN LANE INSTALLATION

Paul St. Martin (7-19-16)

PROJECT

Remove existing bumpout at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Saratoga Street and install a right turn lane for the westbound Selby Avenue to northbound Saratoga right turn movement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection at Selby and Snelling by reducing the amount of westbound Selby Avenue traffic which turns right onto northbound Snelling Avenue at the intersection. The intent is to divert this traffic to northbound Saratoga and westbound Dayton by removing existing bumpout at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Saratoga Street and install a right turn lane, along with signing and pavement marking.

BACKGROUND

The Vintage Development at the northeast corner of Snelling and Selby was proposed in 2012. As part of the city review and approval process, a traffic study was completed. The traffic study recommended installation of a right turn lane for westbound Selby at Snelling. The Union Park District Council was opposed to the right turn lane due to concerns in regard to pedestrian safety at the Snelling/Selby intersection where there is a high volume of pedestrians. Public Works then worked with a Community Task Force to develop concept plan to divert westbound Selby traffic destined for northbound Snelling to northbound Saratoga and westbound Dayton by removing existing bumpout at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Saratoga Street and installing a right turn lane, along with signing and pavement marking.

The removal of the bumpout and construction of the right turn lane at Selby/Saratoga was funded as part of the 2016 Capital Improvement Budget.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The existing bumpout at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Saratoga Street will be removed. New curb and gutter, pedestrian ramp will be constructed at the corner. Pavement marking and signing for westbound Selby to northbound Saratoga right turn lane will be installed along with directional signage directing westbound Selby traffic to northbound Snelling via Saratoga and Dayton. Additional signage and pavement marking will be installed at the intersection of Dayton and Saratoga. It will be necessary to ban parking and eliminate two parking spaces on the north side of Selby east of Saratoga.

Parking is currently banned on the east side of Saratoga between Selby and Dayton and south side of Dayton between Saratoga and Snelling to provide adequate width to facilitate traffic using this route and for traffic accessing Whole Foods, Vintage apartments, Associate Bank and the Primrose Pre-School (under construction) which abut Dayton.

The Snelling/Dayton intersection was modified in 2015 as part of MnDOT Snelling Avenue improvements and the Met Transit A Line BRT Project. Westbound Dayton traffic can only turn right (northbound) at Snelling and the intersection is signed accordingly.

Recent concerns have been raised about the sight distance for westbound Dayton vehicles turning right onto northbound Snelling. There is an existing A Line BRT Station located on the east side of Snelling just north of Dayton. The station bus shelter and pylon structure does partially obstruct sight distance. Due to the configuration of the intersection, a vehicle can safely pull forward into the crosswalk after stopping at Snelling to observe for a gap in traffic to take the right turn. Based on staff observations, there are adequate gaps caused by the traffic signal at Snelling/Selby for vehicles to be able to take the right without undue delay.

Another concern has been raised about potential conflict between the increased amount of traffic on Dayton due to the diversion and the Primrose Pre-school being constructed on the north side of Dayton. The Pre-school has off street parking west of the building and it is expected parents will be dropping off and picking up children via the parking lot, so no conflict is anticipated. We will monitor once the school opens.

TIME SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that the improvements will be completed by November 2016

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Public Works believes the project submitted herein to be necessary and feasible. The Department's Engineering Recommendation is for approval of the project as proposed.