



For Immediate Release: 04.09.01

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One-Way Restrictions Delayed for North and South Boulevards

One-way traffic restrictions along North and South boulevards will not be implemented until mid-May when a new traffic signal is scheduled to be installed at North Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue.

Once the restrictions are implemented, traffic will flow eastbound only on North Boulevard between Forest and Euclid avenues, and westbound only on South Boulevard between Oak Park and Home avenues.

The restrictions originally were scheduled to begin in mid-April, but safety concerns prompted a delay, according to Village Engineer Jim Budrick who said the new signal would help eliminate a potential hazardous left turn north onto Oak Park Avenue.

"As we studied the impact of traffic flowing one way east along North Boulevard it was apparent that the Oak Park Avenue intersection could be a congestion point," Budrick said. "We already had planned to install a traffic signal at the intersection, so it just made sense to coordinate the change in traffic flow with the signal installation.

"One of the determining factors in establishing one-way pairs is to eliminate traffic-snarling, dangerous turns across traffic. With a signal at the intersection of North Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue, eastbound traffic should move smoothly through the intersection."

In addition to reducing traffic congestion by eliminating left turns across traffic at busy intersections, the one-way only restrictions on North and South boulevards also will improve pedestrian safety and create additional parking by allowing diagonal spaces.

Budrick said clear directional signage and pavement markings are planned prior to implementing the directional restrictions. He said traffic engineers also would monitor and evaluate the one-way paired streets to ensure that they provide the advantages for which they were designed.

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