



Transportation Management Division  
1685 Main Street, Room 115  
PO Box 2200  
Santa Monica, California 90407-2200

May 19, 2003

**RE: Request No. 02-02-019**

This in regards to your concern regarding speeding, traffic calming, the installation of an all way STOP sign at Michigan and 9<sup>th</sup> Street and U-haul parking on Michigan Avenue between Lincoln Boulevard and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We apologize for the delayed response.

You requested the installation of a STOP sign to reduce speeding on Michigan Avenue. However, federal and state guidelines recommend that STOP signs not be installed solely to reduce speeds.

A review of the reported collisions over the past three (3) years showed there was not a demonstrated pattern at the intersection that would be reduced by all-way STOP signs. A demonstrated pattern would be five (5) or more collisions, of a type susceptible to correction by all-way STOP signs, in one (1) year. There were no reported collisions at this intersection in the previous three (3) years that would be susceptible to correction by all-way STOP signs. Should you notice a collision, encourage those involved to report it to the police or report it yourself. This will enable us to have more accurate records. The Santa Monica Police Department can be reached at (310) 458-8407.

Our field inspection of the intersection revealed that the red curb at the intersection meets the City standards and provides adequate sight distance for motorists on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Also, the traffic volumes entering the intersection from all approaches should be relatively high to warrant a STOP sign. The traffic volumes are rather low which suggests that the installation of all-way STOP signs is not warranted.

This division has collected speed data for all streets in the City where complaints have been received. The data for Michigan Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street has been compiled and reviewed. As indicated by the data, the average speed on

Michigan Avenue east of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, westbound is 27 miles per hour (mph). The average speed on Michigan Avenue west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, eastbound is 20 mph. This location does not exceed the critical speed criteria to determine the installation of traffic management measures (speed humps, horizontal deflection devices). In an effort to concentrate resources in areas with the most significant problems, the City Council has adopted the policy that residential traffic management measures should be installed only on streets where the average speed exceeds 32 miles per hour. This street does not meet that criterion. Physical interventions are not generally effective in reducing speeds below the level observed on your street.

Additionally, a review of collision records on Michigan Avenue, east and west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, indicates that there are no reported collisions that were caused by unsafe speeds. Therefore, we are focusing efforts to install physical improvements to reduce speeding on other locations where the problems are measurably worse.

We recognize that speeding on residential streets is a concern of many residents in Santa Monica. The City Council shares this concern and has begun a public awareness campaign known as "Slow Down Santa Monica" to remind residents, as well as visitors to the City, to reduce their speeds on a citywide basis. By copy of this letter, we will request that the Santa Monica Police Department provide additional enforcement of the speed limit at Michigan Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street as their time and resources permit. Also, by copy of this letter, we will request that a Speed Trailer be placed on Michigan Avenue, east and west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The Speed Trailer will make drivers more aware of the speeds at which they are traveling by displaying their speeds.

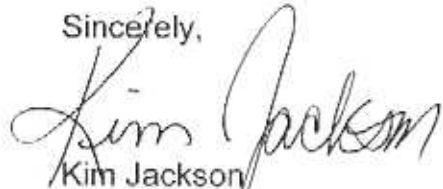
In your request, you mentioned U-Haul parking and parking habits by Santa Monica High School students. In a letter dated April 8, 2003, sent to residents in your neighborhood, we indicated that we'd received comments from residents regarding parking. The majority of comments revolved around continued rude and unsafe parking behavior exhibited by the Santa Monica High School students, as well as some illegal permit abuse, and illegal parking of U-Haul trucks by customers. Staff has worked with residents on all of these issues. Parking enforcement has increased the ticketing of students who are misusing permits. Staff is in contact with U-Haul to prevent their customers from parking commercial vehicles of a certain height or width on residential streets. The Police Department is enforcing regulations prohibiting such parking. If you have further questions about these issues, please contact the Police Department or the parking enforcement division directly at 310/458-2226.

You also requested the installation of a left turn arrow for southbound traffic on Lincoln Boulevard to Michigan Avenue. Unfortunately, Lincoln Boulevard is a state highway and therefore under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation. We will forward your concerns to them.

For the above reasons, we cannot recommend the installation of all-way STOP signs or speed humps at Michigan Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

We appreciate your interest in traffic safety. Please feel free to call this division if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kim Jackson  
Transportation Management Division

cc: Santa Monica Police Department  
California Department of Transportation