



## OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Municipal Building Courtroom

July 20, 2021 - 6:00 PM

### AGENDA

#### I. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

- a. Review of Adoption Process for Traffic Design of Tulane Avenue at Illinois Avenue to Accommodate New Development (to be on August agenda)  
[TSAB\\_letter\\_\\_4-9-21\\_.pdf](#)  
[TRAFFIC\\_SAFETY\\_ADVISORY\\_BOARD\\_April\\_2021\\_Meeting\\_Minutes \(2\).docx](#)
- b. Presentation on Electrical Grid Reliability Improvements - Ardo Ba, Electric Department Director
- c. Discussion of Boards and Commissions Process Including but not Limited to (1) Establishment of Goals and Objectives for Boards/Commissions; (2) Schedule for Filling Vacancies; and (3) Developing Similar Agenda Descriptions to City Council - Mark S. Watson, City Manager and Beth Hickman, City Clerk
- d. Preliminary Discussion on Proposed Usage of State and Federal Funds for Oak Ridge Infrastructure Improvements - Mark S. Watson, City Manager
- e. Status on RFP for Wilson Street Property - Charlie Jernigan, Chair, Oak Ridge Land Bank

#### II. GENERAL UPDATES

- a. Request for TACIR review of State Grant Processes
- b. Anderson County Election Commission Decision on Voting Sites
- c. Sanitation Updates/Changeover
- d. Local Grants Program

#### III. FUTURE AGENDAS

- a. Request to ORUD Board for Fall Meeting
- b. CIT Police Training Briefing
- c. CSX Bike Trail Briefing/Status

# CITY OF OAK RIDGE



POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

April 9, 2021

Mr. William Polfus  
Chairman, Oak Ridge Traffic Safety Advisory Board  
100 Victoria Rd.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Dear Mr. Polfus,

Two items for the City of Oak Ridge Traffic Safety Advisory Board (TSAB) to consider at its April 20, 2021 meeting is, future modifications at the intersection of S. Tulane Avenue and S. Illinois Avenue (SR-62), as well as, a new access onto S. Tulane Avenue for a future development on parcel 099N B 003.00 located on the south west corner of S. Tulane Avenue and S. Illinois Avenue (exhibit A).

The first item for discussion are modifications to the intersection to correct the alinement of travel lanes for southbound traffic at the intersection of S. Tulane Avenue and S. Illinois Avenue (SR-62). This realignment will benefit motorist crossing S. Illinois Avenue and proceeding south onto Tuskegee Drive. In addition, this project would cause the removal of the sweeping right turn ramp from southbound S. Tulane Avenue to westbound S. Illinois Avenue.

I have attached two exhibits to illustrate the misalignment and both of the exhibits are overhead photos. Exhibit B, with the centerlines extended, shows a minor misalignment for north bound traffic, but shows that south bound traffic must deviate an entire lane width. Exhibit C shows the intersection without labels. The accident rate at this location is high. Exhibit D depicts recent accident locations, the majority of which are on S. Illinois Avenue not Tulane Avenue or Tuskegee Drive. A review of those accidents show they are almost always caused by either impatient or inattentive drivers. In most cases the "at fault" driver was cited for disregarding a traffic control device.

The misalignment does not typically cause accidents, but based on complaints to my office, it does cause confusion and on occasion, motorist have to take evasive action when vehicles traveling through this intersection cannot determine which lane they should be in.

As it exists, southbound Tulane Avenue at S. Illinois Avenue has two lanes. It has a dedicated left turn only lane for vehicles turning east onto S. Illinois Avenue and a straight thru lane for vehicles crossing S. Illinois Avenue onto Tuskegee Drive. The proposed modification would add a third lane with pavement marking permitting thru or right turn movements. The proposed configuration is shown in exhibit E.

The horizontal alignment of both streets has been changed over the years as streets have been widened at different times and as part of different projects. Staff cannot reasonably reconstruct the history of all past projects and trying to summarize them is beyond the scope of this letter. The third lane has been previously recommended. A set of TDOT plans entitled "South Tulane Avenue Extension" dated 1977, shows the intersection with the proposed thru lane. The purpose of the project was to construct what is now called Tuskegee Drive between S. Illinois Avenue and Tulsa Road. Staff believes the 1977 plans were revised in 1979 and that the 1979 plans were used for construction. Staff also believes the work on the south side of S. Illinois Avenue was completed after 1979, but that the work on the north side

of S. Illinois Avenue was never done. This is what created the misalignment. A copy of the proposed layout from the 1979 plans is attached and labeled exhibit F. The existence of these plans were previously unknown to staff and were not discovered until after staff created exhibit E.

Staff does not believe the signal configuration or phasing will require change.

It should be known that while staff has had the third lane on their wish list, the accident rate is not high enough to justify this work as a City capital improvements funded project. The developer of parcel 099N B 003.00 desires to fund this to improve access to that property. I have attached a letter from Ms. Davis, with Reality Link, requesting abandonment of right of way and removal of the sweeping right turn lane and modification to intersection at Reality Link's expense.

The original plan for this site anticipated a 58,800 ft<sup>2</sup> supermarket, a 5,842 ft<sup>2</sup> (sit down) restaurant and a tire store that has been constructed and is open. All three businesses combined are projected to create 6,744 new trips per day with 255 trips during the AM peak hour and 344 during the PM peak hour. A right in and right out entrance to the site was proposed on S. Tulane Avenue and it was proposed to improve Badger Avenue to three lanes from S. Illinois Avenue to an entrance on the west side of the site just north of Tulane Place. With this configuration motorist had no reasonable route to travel north toward Oak Ridge Turnpike. A traffic signal is not desirable at the intersection of Badger Avenue and S. Illinois Avenue, but even with the improvements to Badger Avenue, the level of service at this intersection with S. Illinois Avenue was poor with some movements rating an F (delay > 180 sec). Some traffic will still use Badger Avenue, however, a full access east entrance will shift some of the traffic toward Tulane Avenue allowing those persons to use existing traffic signals at the intersections of S. Illinois Avenue and Oak Ridge Turnpike.

This proposed modification is conceptual. An updated traffic impact study will be requested. It has not yet been designed and since S. Illinois Avenue is actually a state route, TDOT will also have to review and approve this project prior to construction.

The second item for TSAB's consideration is a permanent access to S. Tulane Avenue. The access depicted on exhibit E will serve parcel 099N B 003.00. This parcel does not yet have a street address and the usage is TBD, however, a large retail store has been suggested. Section 11.01 (a) item 14 of the Oak Ridge Zoning ordinance classifies S. Tulane Avenue as an arterial street. The Oak Ridge Zoning Ordinance section 11.01 (b) (1) requires approval from City Council for access to streets classified as arterial. City Council traditionally requests a recommendation from TSAB prior to access approval. The access will be presented to City Council at a future meeting.

City staff supports the access as requested.

Sincerely,



Roger Flynn, P.E.  
City Engineer

Attachments:

- A. Anderson Co. Parcel 099N B 003.00
- B. Aerial view intersection of S. Illinois Ave. and S. Tulane Ave. with centerlines extended
- C. Aerial view intersection of S. Illinois Ave. and S. Tulane Ave.
- D. Accident locations
- E. Proposed access and intersection alignment
- F. 1977 TDOT proposed intersection of S. Tulane Ave. extension

Letter from Ms. Maude Davis, Reality Link



**EXHIBIT A**



**EXHIBIT B**





EXHIBIT C

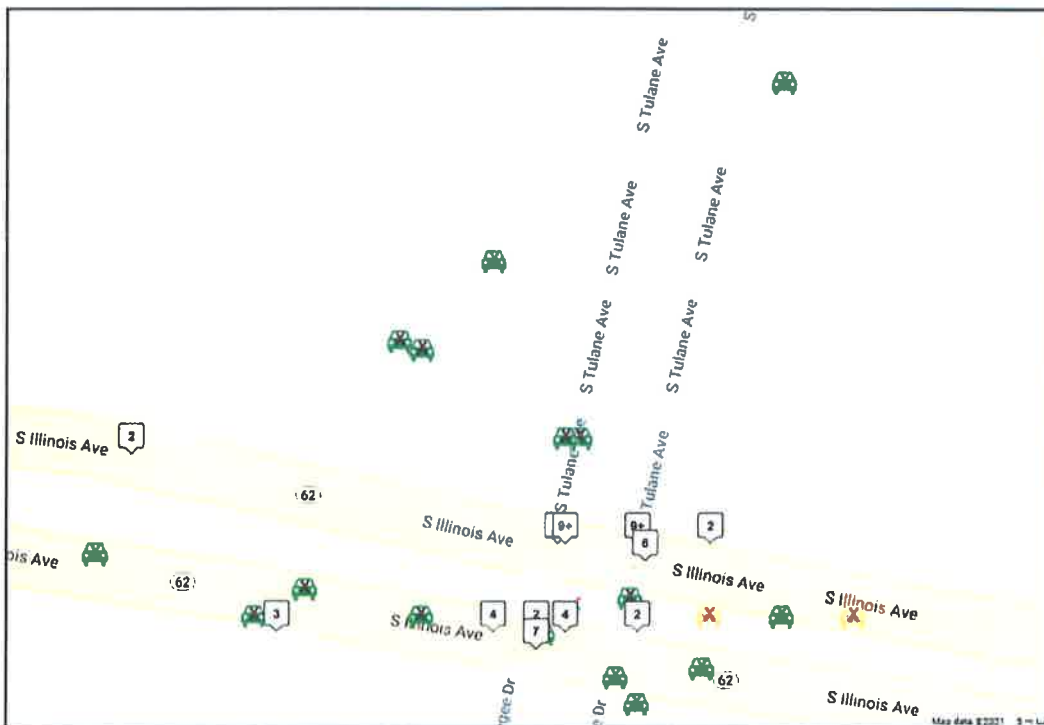


EXHIBIT D

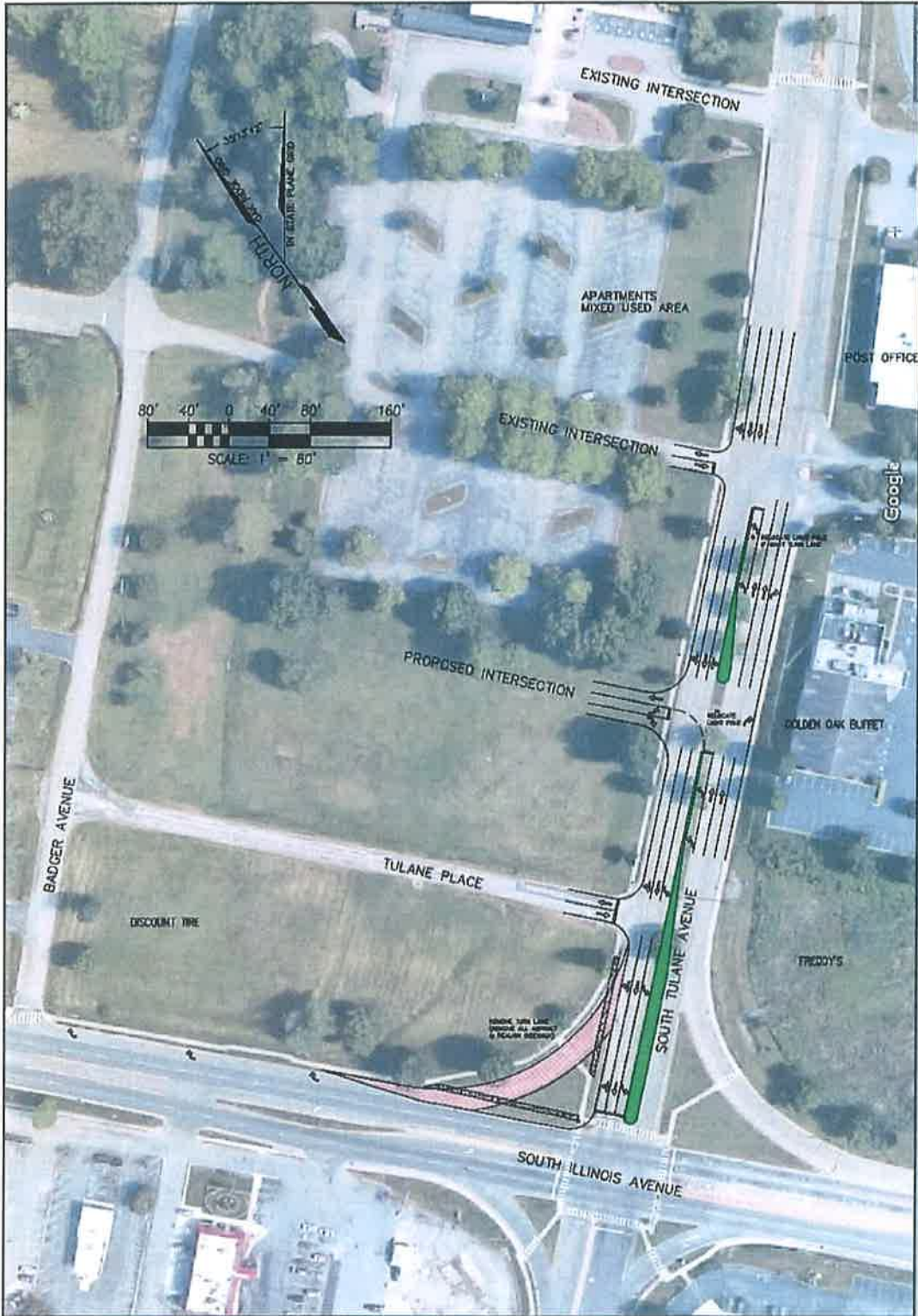


EXHIBIT E

# TN OAK RIDGE ILLINOIS, LLC

March 16, 2021

City of Oak Ridge  
c/o City Manager  
Attn: Mark Watson  
200 S. Tulane Ave  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

VIA EMAIL TO [mwatson@oakridgetn.gov](mailto:mwatson@oakridgetn.gov)

Re: Request for Conveyance of a portion of the Intersection of Tulane

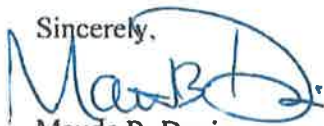
Dear Mr. Watson:

We are formally requesting a conveyance of that portion of the right turn at Illinois and Tulane as reflected in the attached drawing denoted as Exhibit 1.

The conveyance would be "as is" and TN Oak Ridge Illinois, LLC would be responsible for the elimination of the sweeping turn lane (spur). We would then incorporate this land into our existing adjacent property.

I have attached as Exhibit 2, the drawing prepared by Public Works depicting the removal of the sweeping right turn from Tulane to Illinois Avenue as well as a location acceptable to Public Works for direct access into the grocery site.

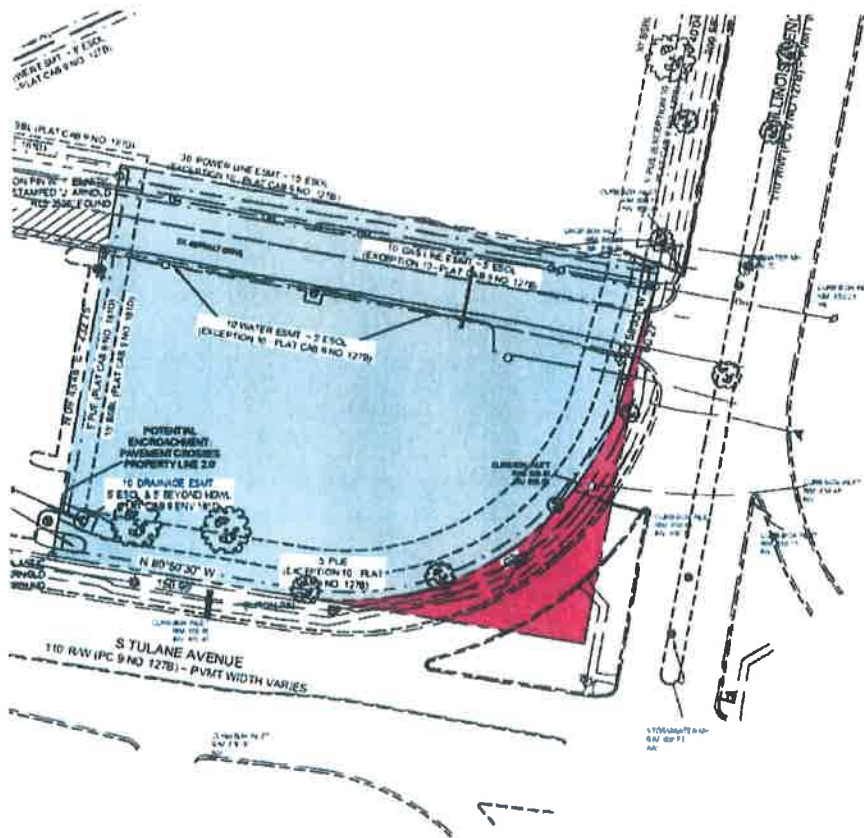
Appreciate you advising the next steps we need to take regarding this requested conveyance.

Sincerely,  
  
Maude B. Davis

cc: Tammy Dunn (via email [tdunn@oakridgetn.gov](mailto:tdunn@oakridgetn.gov))  
W Neil Wilson (via email)



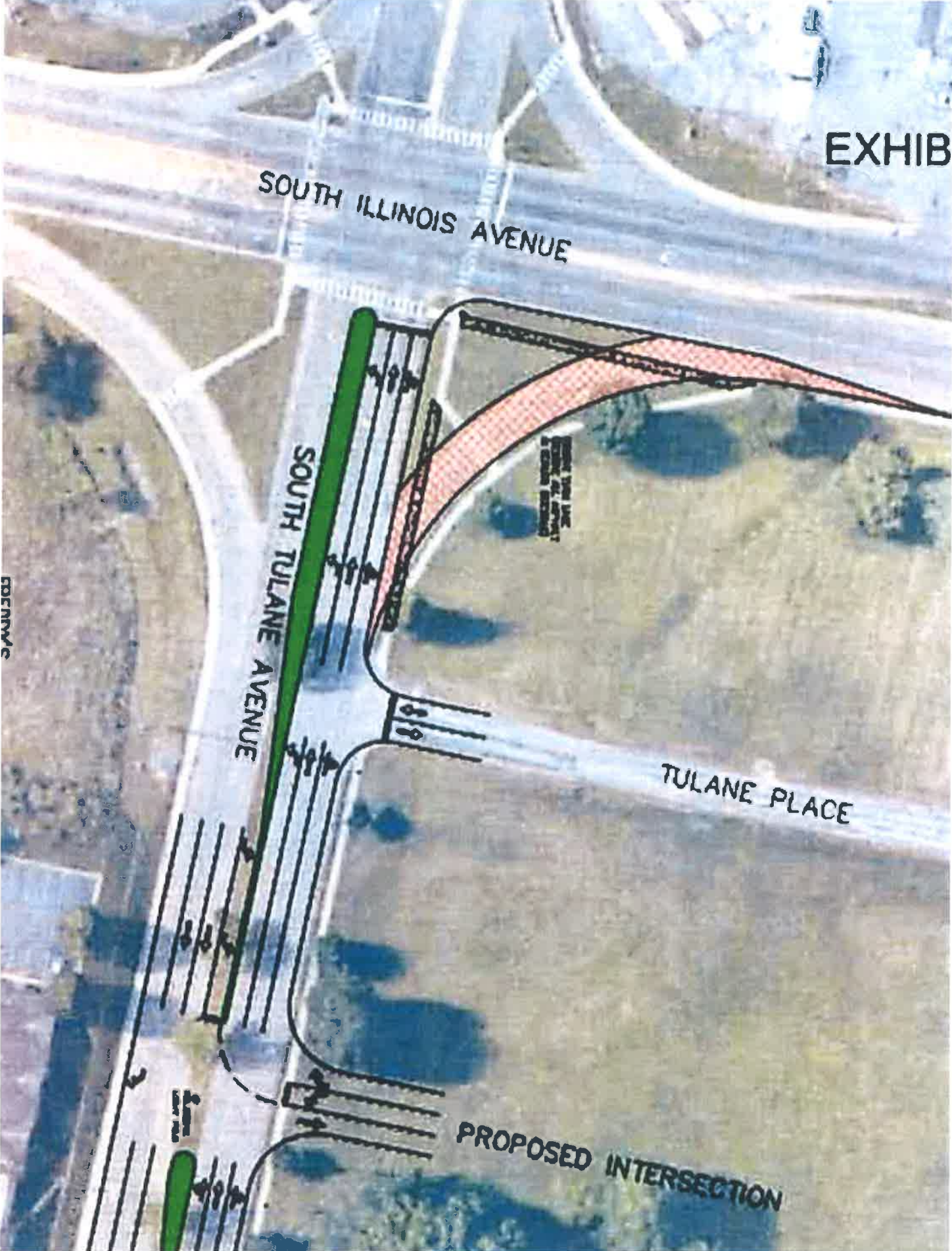
EXHIBIT 'A'



1.611 ACRES  
0.164 ACRES  
TOTAL = 1.775 ACRES



**EXHIB**



SOUTH ILLINOIS AVENUE

SOUTH TULANE AVENUE

TULANE PLACE

PROPOSED INTERSECTION

EDENNY/C

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 20, 2021

The April meeting of the Traffic Safety Advisory Board was held Tuesday, April 20 2021. The meeting was called to order at 705 PM.

Present:

Roger Flynn  
Andrew Howe  
Marty Adler-Jasny  
Ronald Linkins  
Melissa McMahan  
William Polfus  
Todd Wilson

Absent:

Colin Loring  
Ilona Kaczocha  
Jana Humphrey

1. The minutes from the February 2021 meeting were approved unanimously
2. New Business
  - a. Roger presented consideration for modifications to the intersection of S Illinois Ave and S Tulane Ave to TSAB for the purpose of improving access to the vacant property on that corner. Letter and proposal found in agenda. Discussion with the board included maps and renderings of the potential changes.
  - b. A motion was made by Todd Wilson to approve driveway access to S Tulane Ave parcel 099NB003.00. The motion was seconded by Melissa McMahan
    - i. No other discussion was made on the motion
    - ii. Votes to approve: Marty, Ron, Melissa
    - iii. Votes to not approve: Andy, Bill, Todd
    - iv. Motion failed
  - c. A motion was made by Melissa McMahan for modification to the intersection of S Tulane and S Illinois ave as per attached (our exhibit E, their exhibit 2); removal of sweep, addition of the lane. The motion was seconded by Andy Howe.
    - i. No other discussion was made on the motion
    - ii. Votes to approve: Melissa, Marty
    - iii. Votes to not approve: Bill, Todd, Ron, Andy
    - iv. Motion failed
  - d. Subsequent discussion was regarding the concerns and issues with the suggested changes and what would need to be reviewed or explained further to TSAB in order for the board to consider supporting the requested changes; it was

determined that the board needed more information. Potentially a traffic impact study, build out plan, and/or knowledge of what businesses are going to go in there to readily assess anticipated traffic flows and considerations.

- e. A motion was made by Bill Polfus to reconsider the request for modifications to the intersection of S Illinois Ave and S Tulane Ave to TSAB for the purpose of improving access to the vacant property on that corner based on receipt of additional information such as traffic studies and site plans. Ron Linkins seconded the motion.
  - i. The motion passed unanimously
- 3. Issues or concerns
  - a. The Other One is moving to the old Magnolia Tree restaurant location
    - i. No needed guidance from TSAB
  - b. The city is still actively repairing potholes; Roger advised to guide residents to report any they are finding
  - c. The contractor will be fixing the section of Marquette and Purdue that's messed up as part of the new State Farm building
  - d. There is a similar area on Marshall Circle where a water main break occurred, resulting in an 8 ft x 8 ft square filled with gravel
- 4. Comments or questions on roadwork in the city
  - a. None
- 5. Additional Business
  - a. None
- 6. Request for new business items or future briefings
  - a. None
- 7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 845 PM

Melissa McMahan  
TSAB Secretary