

Item 8a



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Sunfish Lake

From: Justin Messner, PE, City Engineer

Date: October 23, 2023

Re: Concerns Regarding Parking on Salem Church Road

At the October 3, 2023, City Council meeting, Council and Staff received a complaint from a resident regarding parking and pedestrian safety on Salem Church Road. The resident mentioned that parking on the roadway in certain locations was creating dangerous conditions for both vehicles and pedestrians traveling along the roadway.

Police Chief Sturgeon and I conducted a site visit on Thursday, October 19, 2023, to review the existing conditions and review the potential of restricting parking where appropriate along the roadway. Chief Sturgeon and I evaluated roadway sightlines and measured the drive lane and shoulder widths. Using the information collected, I referenced the Minnesota Local Road Research Board (LRRB) manual for Addressing Citizen Requests for Traffic Safety Concerns as well as the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD).

Based on our observations and information collected in the field, I recommend posting "No Parking" along the entire north side of the Salem Church Road. The basis for my recommendation is as follows:

1. "No parking is typically installed to improve sightlines or provide adequate traveling width." (LRRB) Our observation was that the existing geometrics of the roadway and dense vegetation along the roadway adversely impacted predominately along the north side of Salem Church Road. Furthermore, the 11-foot lane widths and lack of shoulders on both sides of the roadway make it difficult to maintain adequate traveling width when vehicles are parked on both sides of the road.
2. "Install parking restrictions in a way that is clear for drivers to understand and is enforceable by law enforcement." (LRRB) Installing no parking zones only in areas where sightlines are impacted or in areas where road widths are not adequate may create confusion for both drivers and law enforcement due to inconsistency; therefore, we recommend restricting parking along the entire roadway, and limited to only one side of the road.

Four signs would cost approximately \$800 – \$1,200 to purchase and install. If it is determined that signage should be placed at this time, staff will obtain a quote from a contractor to install the signs.