

Topic: ANTHEM LOOP SAFETY

Someone recently complained because they thought I was one of those SCA members who wanted the parkway/loop speed limit be reduced to 35 mph--no matter what. That is not true.

I have consistently advocated that 45 mph COULD be a safe speed limit on the loop--IF (1) it was strictly enforced, and IF (2) the dangerous intersections were made safe by removing line-of-sight blockages, AND IF (3) traffic lights were installed at the most dangerous intersections. Phil Hight and Dan McClintock deserve great credit for their selfless efforts while serving on the Property & Grounds Committee before passing away, and a good way to honor their work would be to insist that the full project gets completed in 2009.

As a matter of background, we need to accept that Del Webb intended to have the loop speed controlled at 35 mph to allow this to be a golf-cart-permissible community--WHEN there were 3 golf courses planned. But, that goal has since become impractical due to the 2002 changes to the Master Plan, and the resulting major changes in parkway/loop use. We need to insist that the loop traffic controls be upgraded if we are going to continue to have a 45 mph posted speed limit.

We should not accept some Henderson proposals to wait for installing traffic lights until the accident rate increases significantly, i.e., until more SCA members are killed or become maimed from accidents at the intersections. It is clear the most dangerous loop Intersections need to have traffic lights. And, to provide the most efficient results, those traffic lights should be installed with access switches activated by vehicles and pedestrians entering, exiting, and/or crossing the loop.

Let's pull together and ask the City to install traffic lights at the 4 or 5 most dangerous intersections before the end of 2009. Please help me to help you on this vital lifestyle safety issue for our community! The lives and health we save may be our own.

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