



City of Portsmouth, Public Service Department

55 Mary Ann St, Portsmouth, OH 45662 Phone: (740) 354-7766 Fax: (740) 353-3459

Christopher L. Murphy
Public Service Director

January 23, 2007

Councilman Bob Mollette
3rd Ward Council Person
1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Re: Correspondence 07-002 (Reported Safety Concerns with Coles Boulevard, Sherman Road, Forrest Avenue, and Traffic Signal at Gilbert Avenue

Dear Councilman:

I have received the above stated correspondence and have personally checked each of the locations mentioned. I have addressed each location below as it pertains to the city, driver safety, and the standards established by the Ohio Manual of Traffic Control Devices (OMTCD).

Increased Speeds on Coles Blvd. – This is not applicable to this Department. It is strictly an enforcement issue and should be addressed by the Police Department.

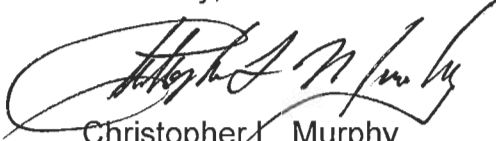
Traffic Light (Gilbert & Coles) – I suggested to the Mayor we remove the light at this intersection based on the fact it no longer meets any warrant criteria as outlined in the OMTCD. This Department took the appropriate steps by bagging the lights (for a period of 90 days) before they will be removed. I understand Coles Boulevard can be a busy road at certain times with the hospital employee traffic. However, the traffic still does not warrant the light to remain.

Sherman Road & 28th – A properly marked 4-way Stop is currently located at this intersection. No other markings are required by OMTCD. If motorists are not obeying the posted traffic signs, then this is not a traffic issue but an enforcement issue.

Sherman & Coles – There is a pine tree on the west side of Sherman Road as you approach Coles Boulevard. However, this tree is set back enough to give motorist the proper sight distance for the posted speed as given by the OMTCD without causing a hazard. As at any intersection, motorists should observe traffic and use caution when turning onto Coles Boulevard.

Should you have further questions concerning this issue, contact me at
(740) 353-5419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher L. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Christopher L. Murphy
Director of Public Service
City of Portsmouth

1 Encl
as

CF:
Mayor Kalb
City Clerk