

December 11, 2023
Item No. 8.16.
Gilchrist Avenue Left Turn Prohibition

Sponsor: Emily Fisher, Director of Public Works

Reviewed By CBC: City Council

Agenda Caption: Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 38 "Traffic and Vehicles," Article VI, "Traffic Schedules," Section 38-1008 "Traffic Schedule VIII, No Right Turn and No Left Turn," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of College Station, Texas, to prohibit left turns for vehicles traveling eastbound on Gilchrist Avenue onto Williams Street and repealing ordinance 2015-3667.

Relationship to Strategic Goals:

- Core Services and Infrastructure
- Improving Mobility

Recommendation(s): Staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance and repealing ordinance 2015-3667.

Summary: The proposed ordinance would prohibit left turns for vehicles traveling eastbound on Gilchrist Avenue onto Williams Street, which is the drop-off and pick-up line for College Hills Elementary School. The prohibition would be on school days between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

College Hills Elementary temporarily changed the location of their drop-off and pick-up line during the rehabilitation of Francis Drive. When the project was completed, school administrators felt the new location accommodated a safer drop-off and pick-up and requested that the city switch the "No Left Turns" sign from Francis Drive to Gilchrist Avenue. A meeting was held at College Hills Elementary with the principal, College Station Independent School District staff and city staff to discuss the change. Although the vehicle queue would back up along westbound Gilchrist Avenue during drop-off (morning) and pick-up (afternoon) times, this ordinance would prevent a queue forming in the eastbound direction. Observations of drop-off and pick-up currently show that the westbound queue clears quickly and impact is minimal. After discussion, it was decided that the safety improvement of the drop-off and pick-up procedures outweighed the impact of the queuing onto Gilchrist and staff recommends the change. Staff also confirmed that the change does not interfere with emergency response.

Action on this item also repeals Ordinance 2015-3667, which is the prohibition of left turns on Francis Drive at the College Hills driveway between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The "No Left Turn" sign that is currently located on Francis Drive will be relocated to Gilchrist Avenue.

Budget & Financial Summary: The relocation of the "No Left Turn" sign is accounted for in the Public Works Traffic Signs and Markings operations budget.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance Gilchrist No Left
2. Exhibit Gilchrist No Left
3. 2015-3667 - Ordinance - 07_09_2015

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 “TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES,” ARTICLE VI, “TRAFFIC SCHEDULES,” SECTION 38-1008 “TRAFFIC SCHEDULE VIII, NO RIGHT TURN AND NO LEFT TURN SIGNS,” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, BY ADDING THE INTERSECTION OF GILCHRIST AVENUE AND WILLIAMS STREET; BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS AS SET OUT BELOW; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; DECLARING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS:

PART 1: That Chapter 38 “Traffic and Vehicles,” Article VI, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 38-1008 “Traffic Schedule VIII, No Right Turn and No Left Turn Signs” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of College Station, Texas, be amended as set out in **Exhibit “A”** attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes.

PART 2: Ordinance No. 2015-3667 is hereby repealed.

PART 3: If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or unconstitutionality does not affect other provisions or application of this Ordinance or the Code of Ordinances of the City of College Station, Texas, that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

PART 4: That any person, corporation, organization, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association and any other legal entity violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a violation of fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation ordinances, other than the dumping of refuse. Each day such violation shall continue or be permitted to continue, shall be deemed a separate offense.

PART 5: This Ordinance is a penal ordinance and becomes effective ten (10) days after its date of passage by the City Council, as provided by City of College Station Charter Section 35.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Secretary

Mayor

APPROVED:

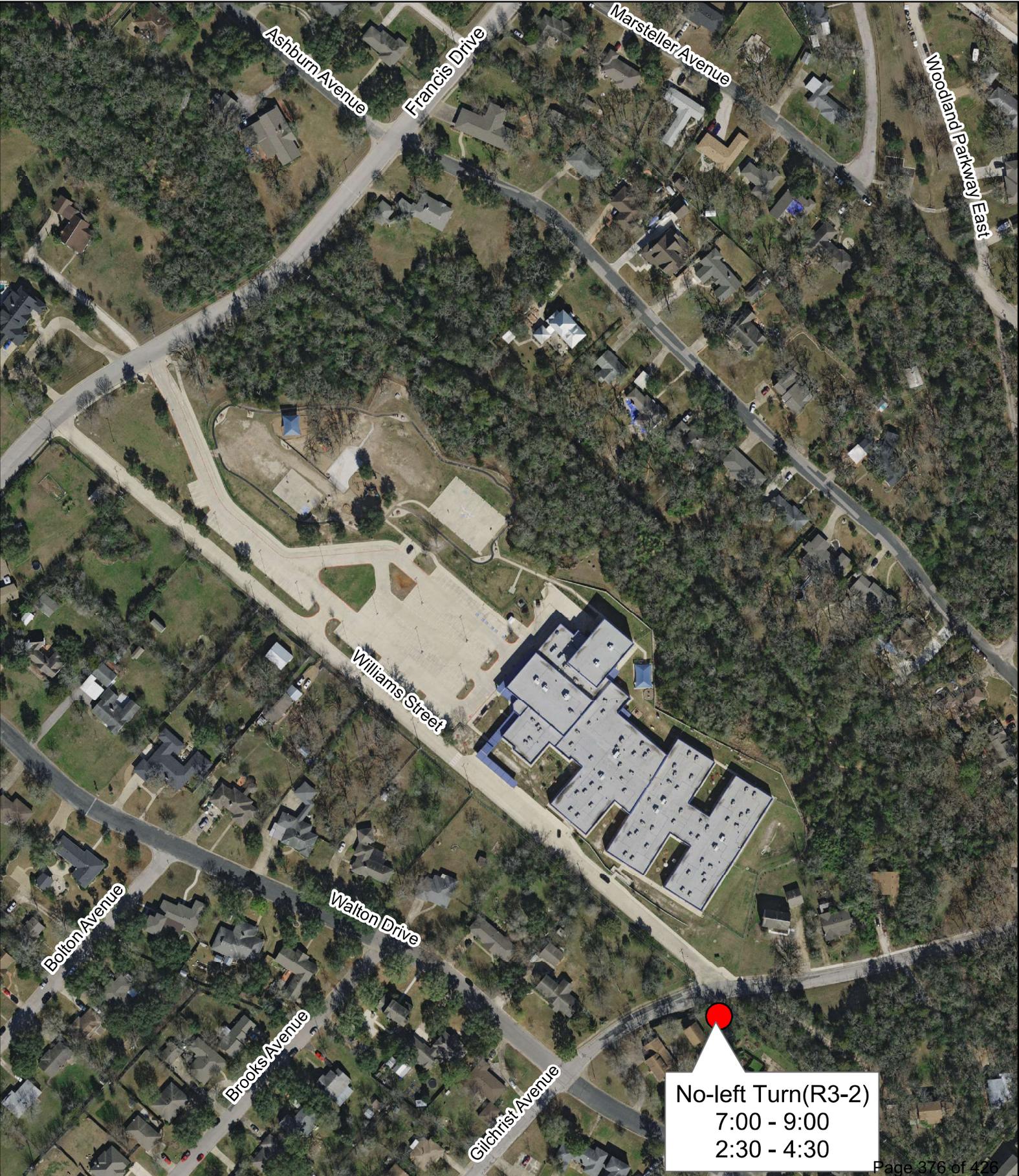
City Attorney

Exhibit A

That Chapter 38 “Traffic and Vehicles,” Article VI, “Traffic Schedules,” Section 38-1008 “Traffic Schedule VIII, No Right Turn and No Left Turn Signs” is hereby amended to include the following entry:

<i>Street</i>	<i>Intersecting Street</i>	<i>Travel Direction</i>	<i>No Lt. Turn</i>	<i>No Rt. Turn</i>
Gilchrist Avenue	Williams Street	east	v ¹	
¹ On school days from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and on school days from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.				

No-Left Turn sign at Gilchrist Avenue and Williams Street



ORDINANCE NO. 2015-3667

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, "TRAFFIC CODE", SECTION 2 "TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES", K "INTERSECTIONS CONTROLLED BY NO RIGHT TURN OR NO LEFT TURN SIGNS", TRAFFIC SCHEDULE VIII – "NO RIGHT TURN AND NO LEFT TURN", OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, AS SET OUT BELOW; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; DECLARING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS:

- PART 1:** That Chapter 10, "Traffic Code", Section 2 "Traffic Control Devices", K "Intersections Controlled by No Right Turns or Left Turn Signs", Traffic Schedule VIII – "No Right Turn and No Left Turn" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of College Station, Texas, be amended by amending as set out in **Exhibit "A"**, attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance for all purposes.
- PART 2:** That if any provisions of any section of this ordinance shall be held to be void or unconstitutional, such holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining provisions or sections of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.
- PART 3:** That any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed liable for a civil offense and, upon a finding of liability thereof, shall be punished by a civil penalty of not less than One Dollar (\$1.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Said Ordinance becomes effective ten (10) days after date of passage by the City Council, as provided by Section 35 of the Charter of the City of College Station.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 9th day of July, 2015.

APPROVED:

Trancy L. Perry
Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry Mosher
City Secretary

APPROVED:

Alan C. Fales
City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"

That Chapter 10, "Traffic Code", Section 2 "Traffic Control Devices", K "Intersections Controlled by No Right Turn or No Left Turn Signs", Traffic Schedule VIII – "No Right Turn and No Left Turn" is amended to include the following:

1. Francis Drive

- a.** No Left-Turns on school days from 7:00 am until 9:00 am on southbound Francis Drive into the College Hills Elementary Driveway.
- b.** No Left-Turn on school days from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm on southbound Francis Drive into the College Hills Elementary Driveway.