Report TSD-234-74 A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ANALYSIS .IN JACKSON COUNTY



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TRAFFIC and SAFETY DIVISION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS STATE OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Department

of

State Highways and Transportation

Report TSD-234-74

A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ANALYSIS

IN JACKSON COUNTY

JOSEPH L. MESZAROS

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES

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March 1974

PREPARED BY

Traffic Engineering Services Traffic and Safety Division Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation

in cooperation with The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and The U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

"The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the State or U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration."

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INTRODUCTION

The Highway Safety Act of 1966 was enacted by the Congress of the United States in order to promote highway safety. Highway safety standards were then developed to assure the orderly implementation of the Act.

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Purpose

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Highway Safety Standard 4.4.13, Traffic Engineering Services, is one of those standards. The purpose of Standard 4.4.13 is

<u>"to</u>	assu	re	the	full	and	proper	_app	<u>lication</u>	of modern
traf	fic	eng	inee	ering	prin	nciples	and	uniform	standards
for	traf	fic	cor	itro1	to 1	reduce	the	likeliho	od and
seve	erity	of	tra	fic	acc	idents.	Π,		

This standard includes the identifying of specific locations or sections of streets and highways which have a high accident experience or potential as a basis for establishing priorities for improvement, selective enforcement or other practices that will eliminate or reduce the hazards.

The State of Michigan carries out a service of this type on the state trunkline system; however, many of the city and county agencies lack the financial and technical prerequisites necessary to pursue similar programs with similarly defined objectives. To insure that this additional highway safety standard is met and to improve the overall evaluation of the accident picture in Michigan, the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation requested and received through the Office of Highway Safety Planning in the Department of State Police, a federally funded project entitled "Traffic Engineering Services for Cities and Counties".

In cooperation with participating cities and counties, the proposed service, under the direction of Department personnel, will make a traffic engineering evaluation of the factors causing traffic accidents and will recommend corrections to those conditions which may be contributing to accidents.

Scope

The intent of this program is to improve traffic safety on all Michigan streets and roads by expanding the traffic engineering evaluation of factors causing accidents.

Study Procedures

The study procedures for this project involve a review of high accident locations. This review includes: basic data collection,

identifying and locating high accident locations, an accident analysis of these high accident locations, technical evaluation of accident facts, and consequent remedial recommendations.

Study Area

Jackson County is located in the south central portion of the state. It is bordered on the north by Ingham and Eaton Counties, on the east by Washtenaw County, on the west by Calhoun County and on the south by Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties (Figure 1).

The population of Jackson County in 1970 was 143,274 which is an increase of 8.5 percent over the 1960 census. This increase is not uncommon as the population of the county has been steadily increasing since 1920.

The road system in Jackson County, according to the Twenty Second Annual Progress Report as compiled by the Local Government Division of the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation, is made up of 157.30 miles of state trunkline, 529.29 miles of county primary roads and 1,011.95 miles of county local roads, for a total of 1,698.54 miles of roadway (Figure 2).





TRAFFIC ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

Collection and Analysis of Data

The Department of State Police examined their records and transmitted to the Traffic and Safety Division of the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation a list of the 10 high accident locations (Figure 3) on the county road system. An automated system of locating accidents on local roads has not yet been established on a statewide basis; therefore, the high accident locations for Jackson County were determined by manually extracting and compiling those locations with the highest number of accidents from the 1970 county accident reports.

Once the problem locations were identified, additional accident information for the years 1971 and 1972 was compiled in order to expand the accident base at each location.

The 10 high accident locations accounted for 286 accidents during the three-year study period. Traffic volumes on the County Primary Road System in Jackson County vary from moderate in outlying areas to heavy near the City of Jackson. It is understandable then that the high concentration of accidents will be in this area (Figure 4).

The data collection, for which the Department of State Highways and Transportation is responsible, involves the following basic steps: 1) preparation of collision diagrams and, if necessary, physical condition diagrams for each selected location; and 2) obtaining traffic and speed study counts where necessary.

The analysis portion of the high accident location review involves the analysis of the summarized facts and field data from the viewpoint of a highway traffic engineer with special attention focused on the effect which the highway environment may have had on the accident. Thus, at each high accident location, individual accident reports were reviewed in detail and collision diagrams were prepared for each location in order to identify accident patterns and to locate the accident in relation to the intersection or approaches to the intersection. The analysis results in evaluating the total information and prescribing the proper treatment at each location.

County-Wide Recommendations

Approach Lanes

Field observation revealed that a few signalized locations in Jackson County had only one lane per approach. When an intersection is signalized there often develops a need for





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additional intersection capacity. If the approaches have a single lane, then turning vehicles may cause extensive delay to other traffic on the same approach. A left turn may be delayed by opposing traffic or pedestrians in the crosswalk. Other traffic will then be held up in the same lane, until the turn can be completed. A right turn can be held up due to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Since turning movements so readily create delay, there is a need for a minimum of two approach lanes on every approach to every signalized intersection. The second lane will allow bypassing of vehicles stopped or slowing to make turns, and will reduce unnecessary delays even if not actually needed for capacity. The widening of intersectional approaches to separate turning traffic from thru traffic is recommended to help reduce the delays caused by assignment of right-of-way at the intersections controlled by traffic signals. Widening also aids in the overall operation of the intersection, because more vehicles are able to negotiate the intersection per signal cycle. Additional width is also necessary on the leaving side as much as the approach side of the intersection to promote movement through the intersection.

<u>Clear</u> Vision Areas

In order to provide ample sight distance at intersections, the corners of these intersections must not be overgrown with foliage nor have other obstructions. Although sometimes buildings or other permanent obstacles create inadequate visibility, most of the time removable objects such as trees, signs, or parked vehicles prohibit adequate sight distances. It is therefore recommended that Jackson County not only establish a program to create clear vision corners at all intersections, but also begin a maintenance program to insure that all corners are kept clear of obstacles.

Estimated Costs

Since final construction plans are not available, in estimating the construction costs the lump sum of \$5.00 per square foot of pavement has been used. The costs for all other recommendations are based on Department unit prices and using Department personnel for the work.

High Accident Locations

After the analysis of the 10 high accident locations was completed, it was apparent that no engineering recommendations would be

feasible for four of these locations. There were no accident patterns at two of these locations and no present driving hazards that could be controlled by traffic engineering. The remaining two locations involved one that will be corrected under another project and the other has undergone a recent change (signalization). Consequently, only the remaining six locations will be discussed in detail. The high accident locations for the study period (1970-1971) are as follows:

1	Morell Street, Spring Arbor Road, and Brown Street	45
2	Flansburg Road and South Street	44
3	Page Avenue and Falahee Road	43
4	Page Avenue and Dettman Road	27
5	Page Avenue and Sutton Road	27
6	Lansing Avenue and Parnell Road	27
7	Horton Road, Jackson Road, Ridgeway Road, and Badgley Road	23
8	Michigan Avenue and Dearing Road	19
9	Francis Street and Hinckley Boulevard	19
10	Wildwood Avenue and Laurance Street	16

SOUTH STREET AT FLANSBURG ROAD

Operational Analysis:

South Street intersects Flansburg Road to form a "T" intersection operating under stop control. There is a 36 in. "Stop" sign used to control traffic on Flansburg Road.

Accidents:

Type		1970	1971	1972	<u>Total</u>
Ran Off Roadway		10	10	10	30
Head On		2	3	1	6
Misc.		3	5	0	8
		_ <u></u>			
• •	Total	15	18	11	44

The miscellaneous types included four rear ends, three rightangles and one improper turning accident. The accident rate at this location was 6.3 acc/MV during the study period.

Eighteen of the accidents occurred at night. Seventeen of the accidents occurred on wet pavement and 20 occurred on snowy and icy pavement. Twenty-three of the ran off roadway accidents occurred on wet or snowy pavement.





EASTBOUND SOUTH STREET



WESTBOUND SOUTH STREET

FIGURE 6



SOUTHBOUND FLANSBURG ROAD

FIGURE 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

Estimated Cost Type Ś 89.52 1. Replace the Bi-Directional Target Arrows on South Street with Directional Target Arrows to indicate a change in alignment. 372.00 2. Erect delineators at 50 ft intervals along South Street on both sides of the road for a distance of 500 ft each direction from Flansburg Road to provide visibility during the periods of darkness. 40.00 3. Apply pavement markings at this location to aid visibility during the periods of darkness. 6,200.00 4. Install guardrail along each approach to the bridge to prevent vehicles from landing in the river. The installation of the guardrail supersedes the Type III Object Markers (Obstruction Panels). 265.22 5. Install an overhead street light at the intersection to illuminate this area during the periods of darkness. 6. Erect a modified Side Road 152.80 Warning sign (W2-2) with an accompanying Road Name sign (D3-2a) on South Street on both sides of this intersection to indicate the presence of this side road. 7. Replace the two Reverse Curve 91.52 Warning signs on South Street with 30 MPH Speed Panels and 36 in. Turn Warning signs. Our field testing indicates that the safe negotiable speed for this turn is 30 MPH. TOTAL \$

7,211.06



PAGE AVENUE AT FALAHEE ROAD

Operational Analysis:

Page Avenue intersects Falahee Road to form a right-angle intersection operating under traffic signal control. The right-of-way assignment is based on a 50 second cycle with a 50-50 percent split, and yellow clearance intervals of seven percent (3.5 seconds). Other controls include two right turn flashing red arrows, one for eastbound Page Avenue and one for northbound Falahee Road traffic.

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Type	1970	1971	1972	<u>Total</u>
Rear End	9	7	3	19
Head On-Left Turn	4	3	3	10
Sideswipe	2	1	1	4
Mísc.	6	1	3	10
		······································		
TOTAL	21	12	10	43

The miscellaneous types included three improper turning, two ran off roadways, one deer, one head on, one improper backing, one vehicle struck a manhole and one right-angle accident. The accident rate at this location was 3.6 acc/MV during the study period.





EASTBOUND PAGE AVENUE



WESTBOUND PAGE AVENUE

FIGURE 10



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NORTHBOUND FALAHEE ROAD



SOUTHBOUND FALAHEE ROAD

Type

- 1. Change the signal timing to an 80 second cycle with a 65-35 percent split favoring Page Avenue and yellow clearance intervals of five percent (4.0 seconds). The signal split is based on traffic counts which indicate a substantial amount of vehicle travel on Page Avenue as compared to Falahee Road. By using this cycle length. progression can be achieved between this signal and the signal located at Page Avenue and Dettman Road. These two signals should operate simultaneously through synchronous action.
- 2. Apply pavement markings including pavement arrows to define the function of each lane.
- Provide a physical barrier between the north leg of this intersection and the parking lot.
- 4. If the head on-left turn pattern on westbound Page Avenue persists, consideration should be given to constructing a center left turn lane for westbound Page Avenue traffic.

Estimated Costs

50.00

\$

50.00

1,500.00

TOTAL

1,600.00

Ş



PAGE AVENUE AT DETTMAN ROAD

Operational Analysis:

Page Avenue intersects Dettman Road to form a right-angle intersection operating under signal control. The right-of-way assignment is based on a 70 second cycle with a 60-40 percent split and yellow clearance intervals of five percent (3.5 seconds).

Accidents:

Type	1970	1971	1972	Total
Rear End	. 4	3	5	12
Head On-Left Turn	2	4	1	7
Turning	2	1		3
Misc.	1	3	I	5
TOTAL	9	11	7	27

The miscellaneous types included two ran off roadways, one pedestrian, one sideswipe and one right-angle accident. The accident rate at this location was 2.2 acc/MV during the study period.


Form 1547 B (Rev. 11/70)



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EASTBOUND PAGE AVENUE



WESTBOUND PAGE AVENUE

FIGURE 14



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NORTHBOUND DETTMAN ROAD



SOUTHBOUND DETTMAN ROAD

FIGURE 15

RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Type</u>

 Erect (2) Signal Ahead signs to warn traffic of the signal as vehicles come around the horizontal curve on westbound Page Avenue and up the vertical curve on eastbound Page Avenue.

- Construct another lane to provide a two lane approach on the north leg of this intersection and improve capacity.
- 3. Change the signal timing to an 80 second cycle with a 65-35 percent split favoring Page Avenue and yellow clearance intervals of five percent (4.0 seconds). This signal split is based on traffic counts which indicate a substantial amount of vehicle travel on Page Avenue as compared to Dettman Road. By using this cycle length, progression can be achieved between this signal and the signal located at Page Avenue and Falahee Road. This signal should be operated simultaneously through synchronous action.
- Apply pavement marking including pavement arrows to aid in defining the operation of each lane of this intersection.
- 5. If the head on-left turn pattern on eastbound Page Avenue persists, consideration should be given to a center left turn lane for eastbound Page Avenue traffic.

Estimated Costs

74,56

\$

30,312.50

50.00

50.00

TOTAL

30,487.06

\$

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FORM 1995 (REV. 10-68)

EOCO. 196M 5-71 45820

SUTTON ROAD AT PAGE AVENUE

Operational Analysis:

Sutton Road intersects Page Avenue to form a "T" intersection operating under stop control. There is one 24 in. "Stop" sign used to control traffic on Sutton Road.

Accidents:

Type		<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	1972	<u>Total</u>
Right-Angle		. 2	4	3	· 9
Rear End		2	2	1	5
Ran Off Roadway		1	2	2	5
Misc.		4	1	3	8
		······································			
	TOTAL	9	9	9	27

88

The miscellaneous types included three head on-left turns, two sideswipes, two improper turning and one improper backing accident. The accident rate at this location was 1.6 acc/MV during the study period.



EASTBOUND PAGE AVENUE

WESTBOUND PAGE AVENUE

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general a general de

NORTHBOUND SUTTON ROAD

SOUTHBOUND SUTTON ROAD

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Type		Est	imated	Costs
1.	Erect 36 in. Side Road Warning signs east and west of the in- tersection on Page Avenue.		\$	74.	.56
2.	Apply pavement markings.			50.	.00
3.	Install a 12 in. flashing beacon at this location with the yellow lens for Sutton Road and the red lens for Page Avenue to indicate to traffic on Page Avenue of possible conflict with vehicles on Sutton Road.		_	2,500.	.00
		TOTAL	\$	2,624.	.56

FORM 1898 (REV. 10-68)

EDCO. 196M 5-71 45820

HORTON ROAD AT JACKSON ROAD, RIDGEWAY ROAD, BADGLEY ROAD

Operational Analysis:

This location is a 0.1 mile segment of Horton Road. Jackson Road intersects Horton Road to form a "Y" intersection with Horton Road operating under stop (36 in. sign) control. Ridgeway Road and Badgley Road intersect Horton Road to form "T" intersections with Ridgeway Road and Badgley Road both operating under stop (24 in. sign) control.

Accidents:

Type		1970	1971	1972	Total
Ran Off Roadway		:: 3	1	1	5
Sideswipe		1	. 2	1 .	4
Misc.	. .	7	·** 4	3	14
	TOTAL	11	7	5	23

The miscellaneous types included three improper turnings, three head ons, three rear ends, three improper backings, one head onleft turn and one right-angle accident. The accident rate at this location was 3.72 acc/MV during the study period.

NORTHBOUND HORTON ROAD

SOUTHBOUND

HORTON ROAD

NORTHBOUND JACKSON ROAD

FIGURE 22

WESTBOUND BADGLEY ROAD

and an and a second

and the second second

and the second second

SOUTHBOUND HORTON ROAD

EASTBOUND RIDGEWAY ROAD

FIGURE 23

RECOMMENDATIONS

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4.

	Type			Est	imated Cost
1.	Apply pavement markings to provide visibility during the periods of darkness.			\$	20.00
2.	Install an overhead street lighting system at each of these intersections to pro- vide illumination at night.				791.06
3.	Erect a D1-2 Directional Guide sign for southbound Horton Road north of Ridgeway Road.				60.87
		•	TOTAL	Ş	871.93

e

FRANCIS STREET AT HINCKLEY BOULEVARD

Operational Analysis:

Francis Street intersects Hinckley Boulevard to form a "T" intersection operating under stop control. There is one 30 in. "Stop" sign controlling traffic on Hinckley Boulevard. Francis Street is a divided roadway at this location.

1

Accidents:

Type	1970	1971	1972	<u>Total</u>
Head On-Left Turn	4	2	2	8
Right-Angle	3	1		4
Misc.	4	2	1	. 7
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
TOTAL	11	5	3	19

The miscellaneous types included two improper turning, one improper backing, one pedestrian, one parking, one ran off roadway and one rear end accident. Six of the head on-left turns and two right-angle accidents involved vehicles exiting a private driveway opposite Hinckley Boulevard.

NORTHBOUND

FRANCIS STREET

THE ACCIDENT

POTENTIAL

SOUTHBOUND

FRANCIS STREET

EASTBOUND

Supervision of the second

C.

HINCKLEY BLVD.

PARKING AREA ACE'S HARDWARE

WESTBOUND

HINCKLEY BLVD.

FIGURE 27

RECOMMENDATIONS

Туре

- 1. Close off the drive opening (Ace's Hardware) directly across from Hinckley Boulevard by erecting a physical barrier extending from Cass Street 190 ft south. This will provide two driveway openings to Ace's Hardware, one on Francis Street north of Meyer Street and one on Cass Street.
- 2. Eliminate parking from the island dividing north and southbound Francis Street as per the Michigan Vehicle Code Section 644. Also, convert the angle parking on southbound Francis Street to parallel parking.
- 3. Relocate the stop sign on Hinckley Boulevard closer to the corner and the point of obedience.

Estimated Costs

\$ 1,900.00

25.00

9

13.25

TOTAL

\$

1,938.25

FORM 1885 (REV. 10-68)

A 主动工作 机制 金属的 A

SUMMARY

The Department of State Police submitted 10 high accident locations for Jackson County to the Department of State Highways and Transportation. After an in depth study of these locations, recommendations were formulated for six of these locations. The recommendations are as follows:

Location Number	Location Description and Estimated Cost	Recommendations
2	S outh Street at Flansburg Road	Replace Bi-Directional Target Arrows with Directional Arrows. Erect Delineators.
	\$ 7,211.06	Install Guardrail. Remove Type III Object Markers. Install Street Lighting System. Erect Side Road Warning signs with a Road Name sign.
·		Erect Turn Warning signs with 30 mph Speed Panels. Remove Reverse Turn warning signs.
3	Page Avenue at Falahee Road	Increase the signal cycle length to 80 seconds. Apply pavement markings. Construct a physical barrier
	\$ 1,600.00	between the north leg and the parking lot.
4	Page Avenue at Dettman Road	Erect Signal Ahead signs. Construct another lane for the north leg of this in-
·	\$ 30,487.06	tersection. Apply pavement markings. Increase the signal cycle length to 80 seconds.
5	Page Avenue at Sutton Road	Erect Side Road Warning signs. Apply pavement markings.
	\$ 2,624.56	install flashing beacon
7	Horton Road at Jackson Road, Ridgeway Road, Badgley Road	Apply pavement markings. Install street lighting system. Erect a D1-2 Guide Sign.
	\$ 871.93	

Location Number	Location Description and Estimated Cost	Recommendations
9	Francis Street at Hinckley Boulevard	Close off the drive across from Hinckley Blvd. Eliminate median parking.
	\$ 1,938.25	parallel parking. Relocate the stop sign.

Furthermore, a few general recommendations were formulated that should be implemented by Jackson County.

- 1. Two approach lanes should be provided per signalized approach.
- 2. A program should be initiated by the county for removing vision obstructions that are located in clear vision areas at intersections throughout the county.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

\$44,732.86