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Board of Trustees
Village of Barrington Hills
112 Algonquin Road
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199

RE: Traffic Study at Algonquin and Bateman Roads

Dear Trustees:

For quite some time now, those of us who live on the west side of Barrington Hills and need to cross Algonquin Road, using Bateman Road, have been aware that it is almost impossible during the morning and late afternoon hours. One literally must take their lives into their hands, as there are very few traffic gaps in which to cross, and there's always the fear of an engine stall when you jam the accelerator.

This morning, the traffic was at an intensity level that I've not seen before, and I feel obligated to bring this to the board's attention. I generally try to get to my downtown office quite early to avoid a 2-hour commute during rush hour. This morning at 5:10am, heading south on Bateman, crossing Algonquin was almost impossible. I counted a steady stream of 50 cars, tightly spaced, heading east, until I saw a brief gap to shoot through – and they were still coming. I know it's the same problem for people crossing Algonquin at Old Sutton Road. Under the circumstances, there is a high risk not only of automobile accidents, but fatalities.

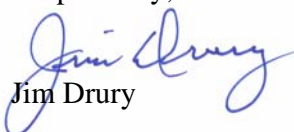
For the past 15 years, I've been crossing Algonquin Road every morning between 5:00am and 6:00am, and have experienced the equivalent of a 15-year traffic study. Ten years ago, at 6:30am or 7:00am I may have seen a stretch of 10 cars – at the most – going east at that hour. Today, there must be a lot of workers who live west of us, with 6:00am shifts at companies east of us.

If the village has not already done so, I strongly recommend a major study of east-bound traffic intensity during the morning, and west-bound intensity during the afternoon/early evening hours. If the freeway project connecting to Algonquin Road goes through, we will be basically shutting down Algonquin Road for the use of local residents. Even when it becomes 4 lanes with traffic lights at Algonquin and Old Sutton, it will serve, even more so, as the major traffic thoroughfare for Lake in the Hills residents traveling east in the morning, and west in the afternoon/evening.

The traffic intensity may be so high, even with lights, it may not be worth traveling on Algonquin Road after 5:30am. And if Algonquin becomes impassable, Lake Cook may be next. Not to mention 68. While the principal focus right now should be on a traffic study for Algonquin Road, Lake Cook and Hwy 68 should not be far behind.

Please let our residents know what our village administration is doing to get their arms around this problem before it becomes too late, and we have a disaster on our hands.

Respectfully,


Jim Drury