

ORDINANCE 2012-06

TO BE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 15-405 OF THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO U-TURNS."

WHEREAS, the Franklin Municipal Code currently sets forth that all "u-turns" are prohibited within the City of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, traffic patterns and studies have shown that there are certain instances where "u-turns" can be safely performed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Franklin, Tennessee, believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City to remove the blanket prohibition for "u-turns," and instead provide that such "u-turns" shall only be made if they can be made safely, and if not otherwise prohibited by signs at locations deemed appropriate by the City Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE:

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, Tennessee, that Section 15-405 of the Franklin Municipal Code shall be deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 4. TURNING MOVEMENTS

* * *

15-405. U-Turns.

- (1) The driver of any vehicle shall not turn such vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction (U-Turn) upon any street unless such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with other traffic.
- (2) The City Engineer is hereby authorized to determine those locations within the City at which drivers of vehicles shall not make a U-Turn and shall direct the placement of the proper signage at such locations. The making of such turns may be prohibited between certain hours of any day and permitted at other hours, in which event the same shall be plainly indicated on the signs or they may be removed when such turns are permitted.

SECTION II. BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, Tennessee, that this Ordinance shall take effect May 1, 2012, the public health, safety and welfare requiring it.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

BY: _____
ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Administrator

BY: _____
DR. KEN MOORE
Mayor

PASSED FIRST READING
PASSED SECOND READING

February 14, 2012



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

MEMORANDUM

February 13, 2012

TO: Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive
Eric Stuckey, City Administrator *Eric*

SUBJECT: **Ordinance 2012-06 to Amend Section 15-405 of the Franklin Municipal Code Relative to U-Turns**
Item 12 of BOMA February 14, 2012 Agenda

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information to the Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) concerning Ordinance 2012-06 for their consideration at the February 14th meeting.

Background

The possibility of this Ordinance was discussed at the BOMA Work Sessions on 12/13/2011 and 01/24/2012, but at the last meeting the Board called for the Ordinance to take effect after the second and final reading. There is, however, a need for staff to research approach locations for where U-Turns should be prohibited. Therefore, Ordinance 2012-06 has been revised to have an effective date of May 1, 2012 in order for staff to investigate an initial list of approach locations to be signed as prohibiting U-Turns and to allow for the making of and installation of the signs required to inform the travelling public as to the prohibited locations.

Attached is a listing of initial approach locations where staff believes U-Turns should be prohibited. This listing is not intended to be a part (exhibit) of the Ordinance, but is for information only for the BOMA as to possible initial locations for the prohibition of U-Turns around the City. Staff welcomes any input as to other locations BOMA may feel needs signing as U-Turn prohibited. Each location will require an engineering investigation as to need and sign placement.

Financial Impact

The exact cost of producing and installing the U-Turn prohibition signage throughout the City is unknown at this time. The Street Department Sign Shop will make and provide the signage and the Traffic Division of the Street Department will install the signs as directed by the City Engineer. No outside services are expected as a part of implementing the ordinance.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Ordinance 2012-06 as revised; effective date of May 1, 2012.

**Locations for Possible Prohibition of U-Turn
February 13, 2012**

Engineering Investigations will be conducted to make final determination as to whether or not to prohibit U-Turns at the following locations. This listing is not necessarily exhaustive of the locations that will be initially investigated. Unless otherwise noted, these approach locations have median noses and occur where there is a signalized left-turn movement in conflict with a right-turn movement signal arrow. (EB = East Bound; WB = West Bound; NB = North Bound; SB = South Bound)

1. Cool Springs Blvd. EB at Mallory Lane
2. Cool Springs Blvd. WB at Mallory Lane
3. Carothers Pkwy. NB at Cool Springs Blvd.
4. Carothers Pkwy. SB at Cool Springs Blvd.
5. Carothers Pkwy. NB at McEwen Dr.
6. Carothers Pkwy. SB at McEwen Dr.
7. McEwen Dr. EB at Carothers Pkwy.
8. McEwen Dr. WB at Carothers Pkwy.
9. Liberty Pike EB at Carothers Pkwy.
10. Liberty Pike WB at Carothers Pkwy.
11. Carothers Pkwy. SB at Liberty Pike
12. Carothers Pkwy. NB at Liberty Pike
13. McEwen Dr. WB at Mallory Lane
14. Mallory Lane SB at McEwen Dr.
15. Cool Springs Blvd. WB at McEwen Dr.
16. Aspen Grove Dr. SB at Cool Springs Blvd.
17. Cool Springs Blvd. EB at Aspen Grove Dr.
18. South Royal Oaks Blvd. SB at Oak Meadow Dr.
19. South Royal Oaks Blvd. SB at Creekstone Blvd.
20. South Royal Oaks Blvd. WB at Mack Hatcher Pkwy (SR 397)
21. Mallory Lane SB at Spring Creek Dr.
22. Carothers Pkwy. NB at Murfreesboro Road (SR 96)
23. Murfreesboro Road (SR 96) EB (undivided) at Carothers Pkwy.
24. Columbia Ave. (SR 6; US 31) NB (undivided) at Parkway Commons Dr.
25. Columbia Ave. (SR 6; US 31) SB (undivided) at Mack Hatcher Pkwy (SR 397)
26. New Hwy 96 West WB (undivided) at Downs Blvd.
27. Murfreesboro Road (SR 96) WB (undivided) at South Royal Oaks Blvd
28. North Royal Oaks Blvd. SB (undivided) at Murfreesboro Road (SR 96)
29. South Royal Oaks Blvd. EB (undivided) at Mack Hatcher Pkwy (SR 397)

There is existing U-Turn prohibition signing at the following locations;

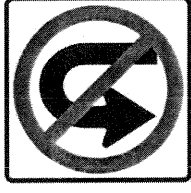
1. South Royal Oaks Blvd. NB at Murfreesboro Road (SR 96)
2. Murfreesboro Road (SR 96) EB at North Royal Oaks Blvd.
3. Cool Springs Blvd. EB at Carothers Pkwy
4. NB Hillsboro Road (SR 106; US 431) at the end of the median just north of Mack Hatcher Pkwy



Suggestions for Amending Franklin City Code §15-405

U-TURNS

§15-405 – Municipal Code



- (1) U-turns are prohibited.*
- (2) Exception. At the intersection of McEwen Road and Carothers Parkway, U-turns are permitted in all directions. No U-turns shall be made unless such movement can be completed in safety and without interfering with other traffic. Where made, the U-turn movement shall exclusively utilize the leftmost lawfully available lane on the approach to the U-turn. Failure to comply with this subsection is punishable under § 15-705, subjecting a violator to a fine of up to \$50.00. This subsection shall expire upon the completion and acceptance of Carothers Parkway or at midnight on December 31, 2008, whichever is earlier.*

(1976 Code, § 9-305; Ord. No. 2005-26, 4- -2005)



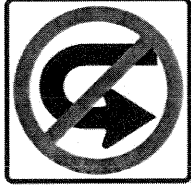
Goals of Laws/Enforcement

- Encourage compliance
- Reduce traffic crashes
- Reduce injuries to motor vehicle occupants and others
- Provide for the efficient flow of traffic
- Respond to and reduce citizen complaints

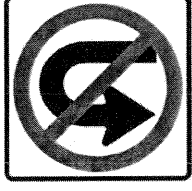


Reality

- Non-compliance due to ignorance of the law and lack of posted signs
- Number of traffic crashes directly caused by U-Turns is statistically insignificant
- Traffic obstructed due to non-compliance in certain areas (can cause crashes)
- Citizen complaints constant in certain areas
- Current code is not working as intended – too broad, does not address specific areas



Crash Data - City of Franklin

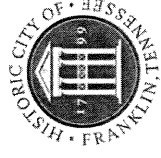


- Examined reportable traffic crashes for 2010
- 1,352 total crashes
- 8 crashes list “Making a U-Turn” as a vehicle maneuver
- Less than 1%
- Similar results for other years



Municipal Court Records

- Examined traffic citations issued in 2010
- Approximately 9,620 citations issued
- 45 U-Turn citations processed by city court
- Less than 1%



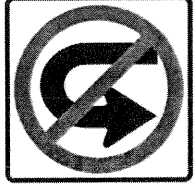
State Laws

- Currently there is no state law prohibiting U-Turns
- No similar city/county prohibitions in Williamson County
- Anomalous local prohibition
- Not frequently enforced
- Other applicable state laws do exist that cover turning movements, if not u-turns specifically



Citizen Complaints

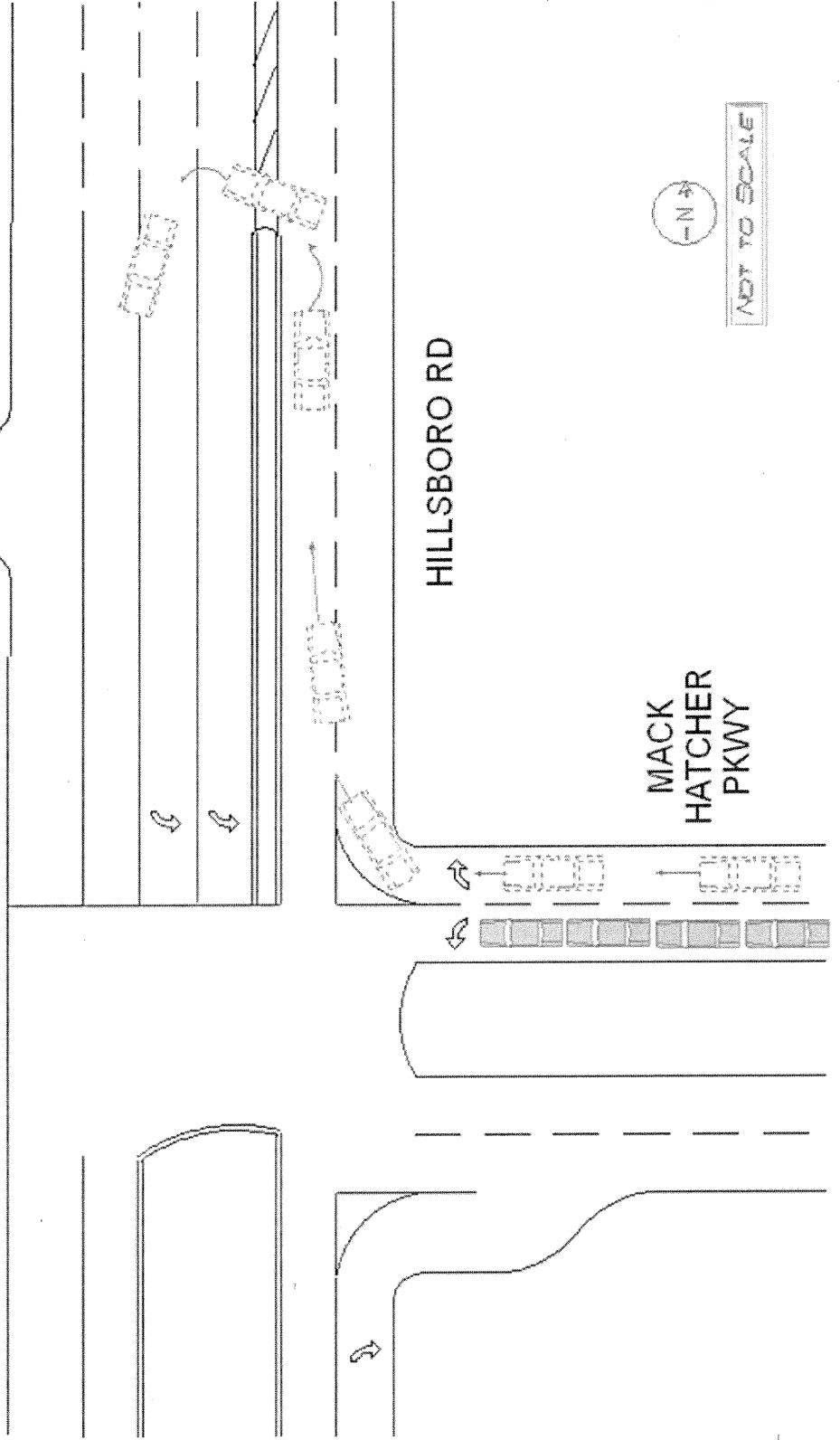
- ◉ Frequent in select areas
- ◉ Peak traffic volume
- ◉ Drivers make U-Turn to avoid long line of traffic waiting to turn left
- ◉ Need to make sure that these maneuvers remain illegal for public safety reasons (crashes and traffic flow)



Hillsboro Rd / Mack Hatcher



REBEL
CIR



HILLSBORO RD

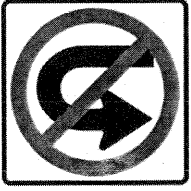
MACK
HATCHER
PKWY



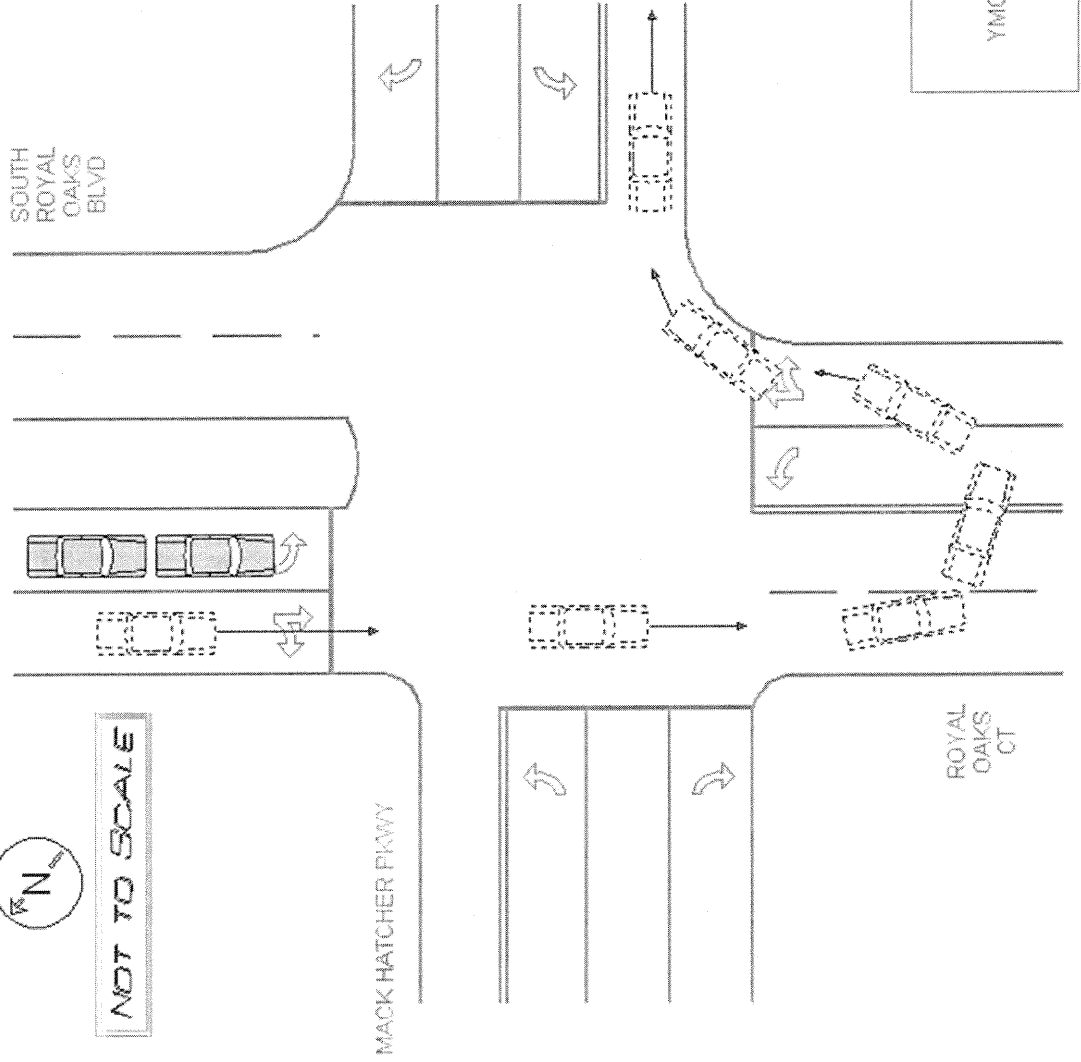
NOT TO SCALE



Royal Oaks Court @ YMCA



NOT TO SCALE



Posted Signs in Problem Areas

- Recently posted on Hillsboro Rd
- Increased compliance (observational evidence)
- Refute the “defense” of ignorance



Alternative Language

- Consistent with state laws regarding turning movements
- Covers situations where state law may be vague or not specifically applicable to u-turns
- Simple – Majority of citizens will comply

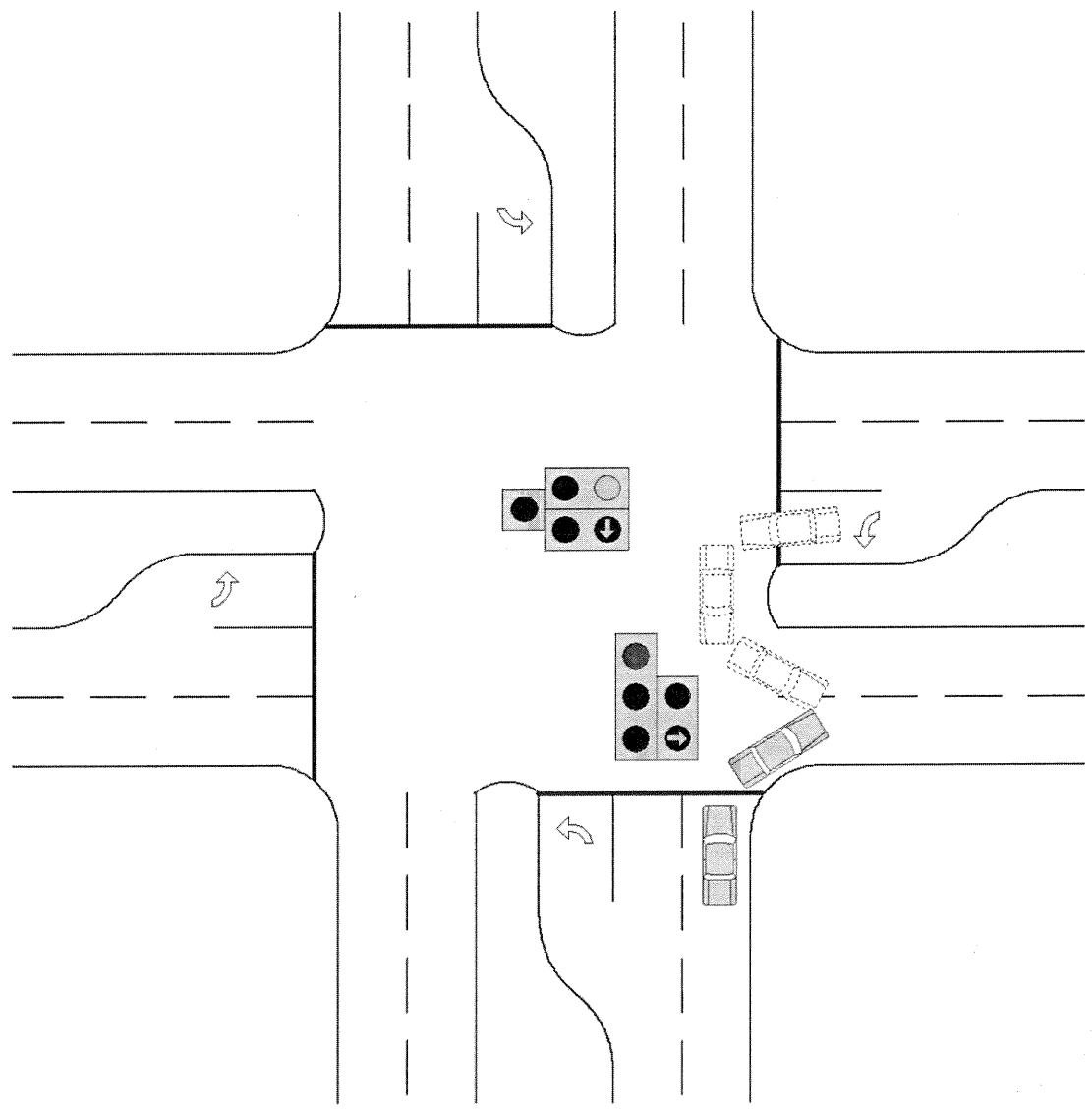
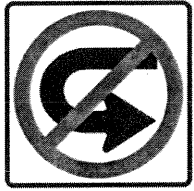


Alternative Language



- Remove blanket prohibition while allowing Police Department to take enforcement action when the turning maneuver presents a hazard
- Movement can be made safely without interfering with other traffic
- Yield right of way to pedestrians or other traffic lawfully in the intersection
- Simple – signs where needed vs. complicated language
- Deal with signalized intersections

Signalized Intersections

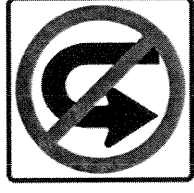


Posting Signs

- ◉ Streets Department and Police Department's ability to post signs in consultation with City Engineer
- ◉ BOMA vote required for each posting?
- ◉ Language in municipal code permitting sign posting when determined to be necessary
- ◉ Similar to Farragut, TN



Example of Proposed Ordinance Language



- ◉ The driver of any vehicle shall not turn such vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any street unless such movement can be made in safety and without interfering with other traffic.
- ◉ The City Engineer is hereby authorized to determine those intersections at which drivers of vehicles shall not make a U-Turn, and shall place proper signs at such intersections. The making of such turns may be prohibited between certain hours of any day and permitted at other hours, in which event this shall be plainly indicated on the signs.



Goals Met

- ◉ Simple – people will comply
- ◉ Does not conflict with existing state laws regarding turning movements
- ◉ Combination of signs and enforcement lead to a reduction in citizen complaints (including violators)
- ◉ Does not hinder Police Department's ability to address driving behavior that causes crashes

