

ESS

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 from and after its passage on second and final reading, the public health, safety and welfare requiring it.

ATTEST:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

BY: _____
ERIC S. STUCKEY
City Recorder/Administrator

BY: _____
DR. KEN MOORE
Mayor

PASSED FIRST READING

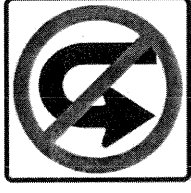
PASSED SECOND READING



Suggestions for Amending Franklin City Code §15-405

U-TURNS

§15-405 - Municipal Code



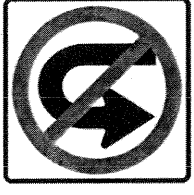
- (1) U-turns are prohibited.*
- (2) Exception. At the intersection of McEwen Road and Carothers Parkway, U-turns are permitted in all directions. No U-turns shall be made unless such movement can be completed in safety and without interfering with other traffic. Where made, the U-turn movement shall 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)



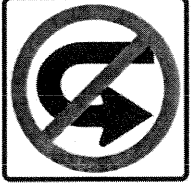
Goals of Laws/Enforcement

- 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

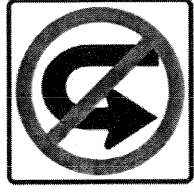


Reality

- ◉ 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

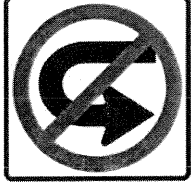


- Examined reportable traffic crashes for 2010
- 1,352 total crashes
- 8 crashes list “Making a U-Turn” as a vehicle maneuver
- Less than 1%
- Similar results for other years



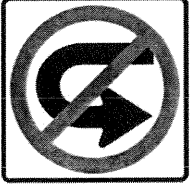
Municipal Court Records

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



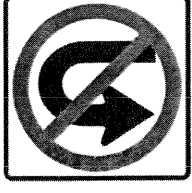
State Laws

- 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

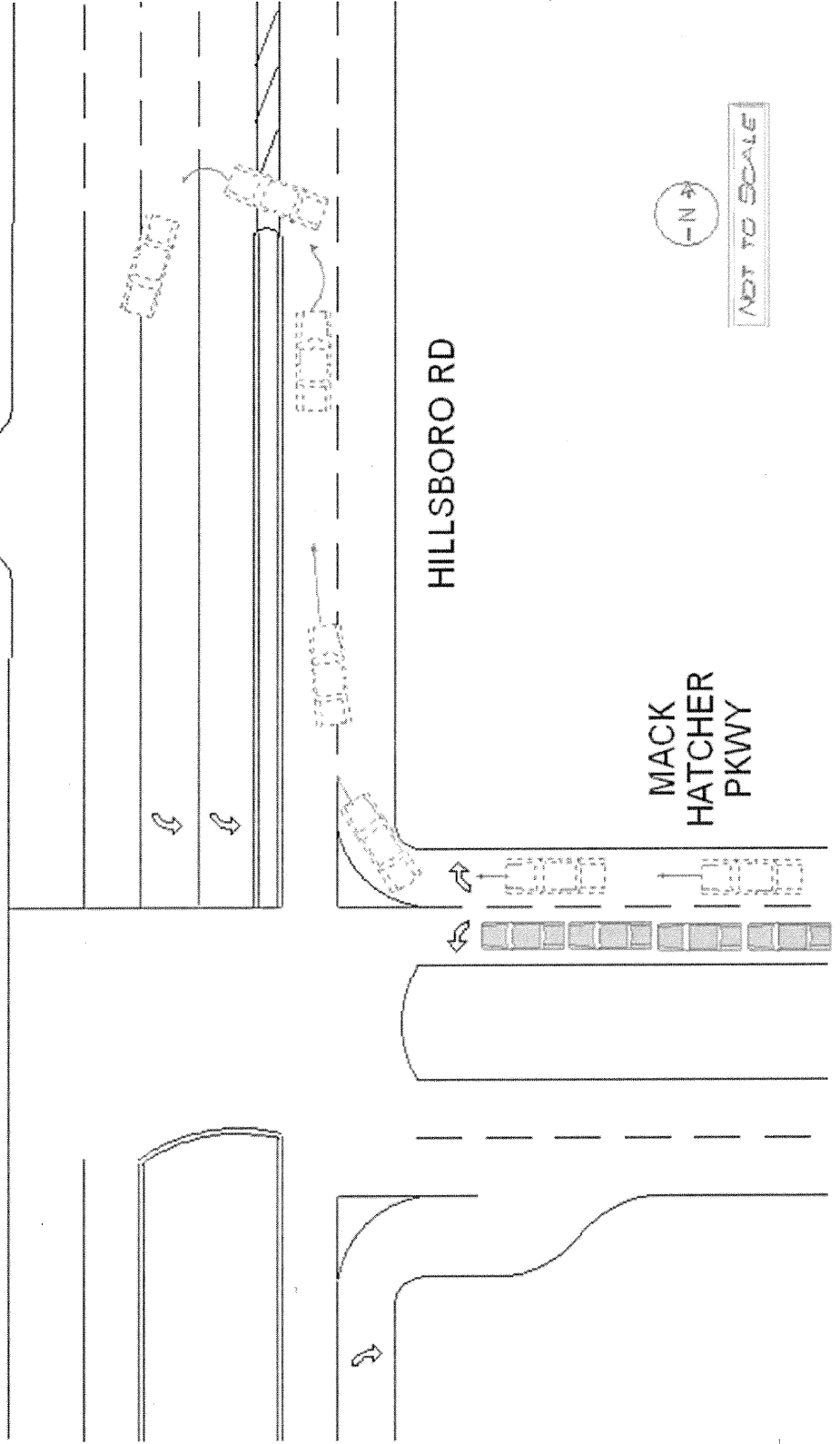
- ◉ Frequent in select areas
- ◉ Peak traffic volume
- ◉ Drivers make U-Turn to avoid long line of traffic waiting to turn left
- ◉ Need to make sure that these maneuvers remain illegal for public safety reasons (crashes and traffic flow)



Hillsboro Rd / Mack Hatcher



REBEL
CIR



HILLSBORO RD

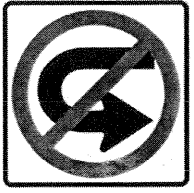
MACK
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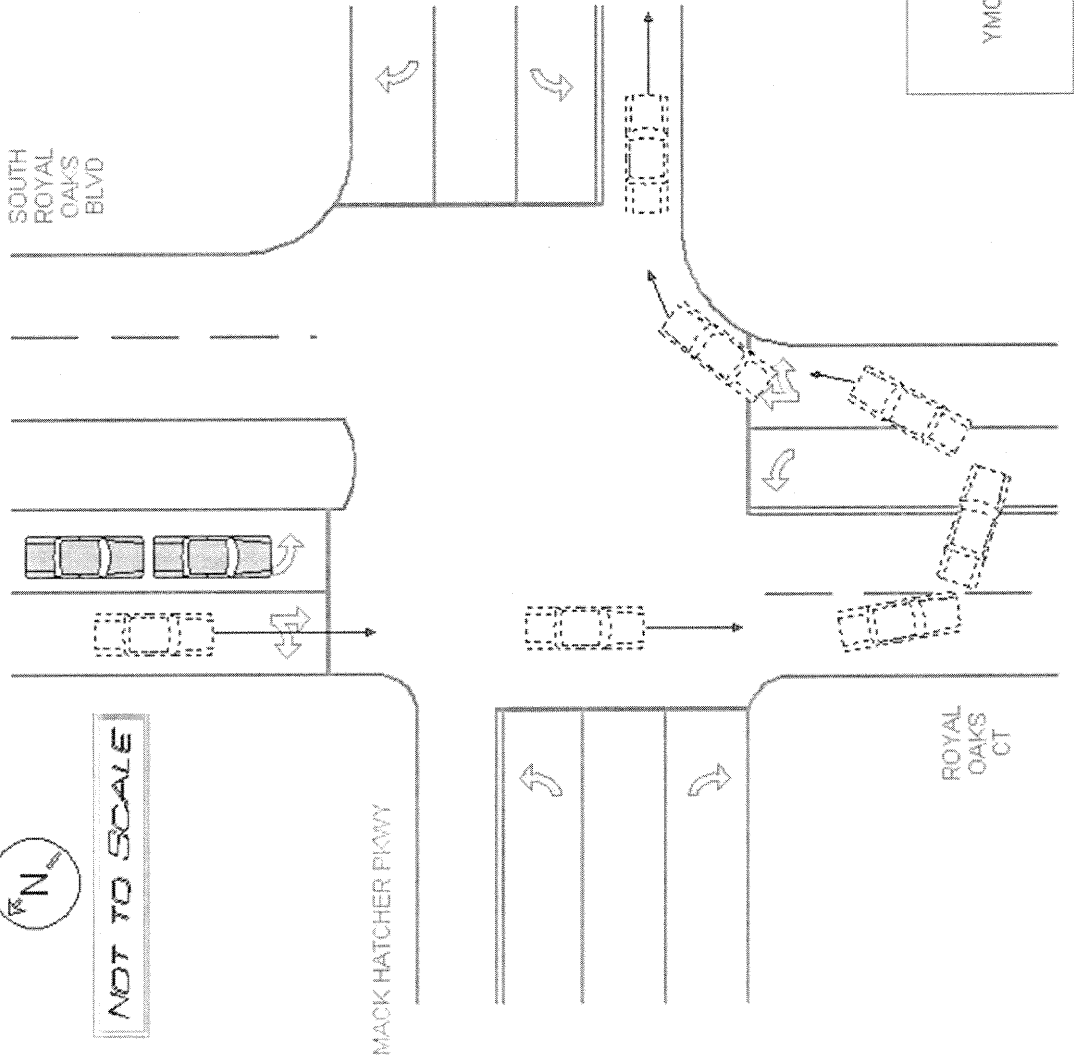
NOT TO SCALE



Royal Oaks Court @ YMCA

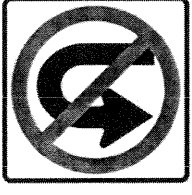


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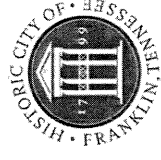
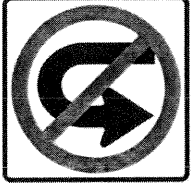
Posted Signs in Problem Areas

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



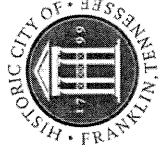
Alternative Language

- 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

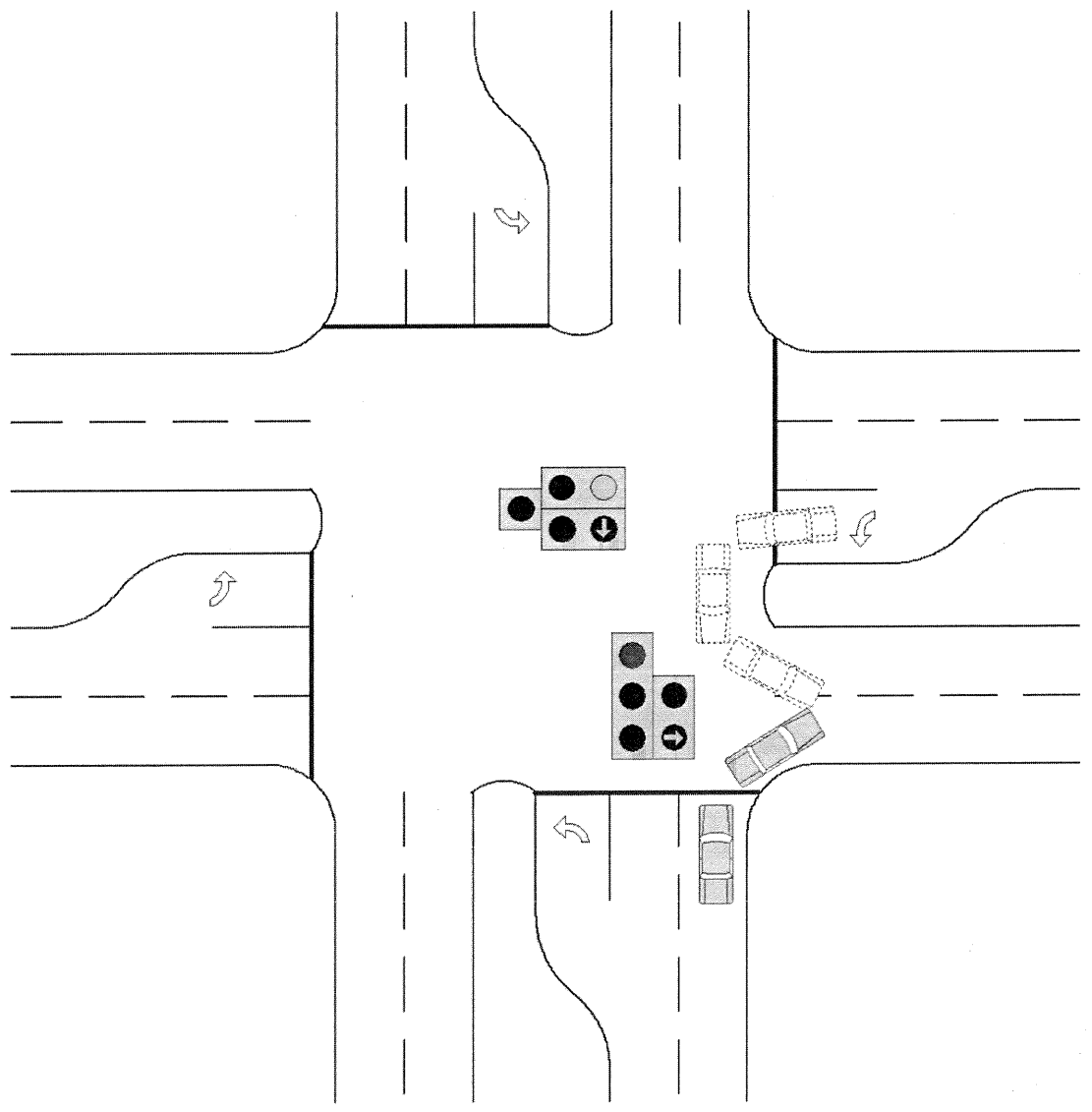
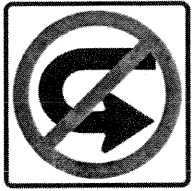


Alternative Language

- 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

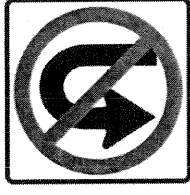


Signalized Intersections

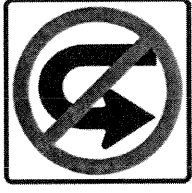


Posting Signs

- ◉ 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

