

city of mercer island memorandum



to: Principal Planner

from: Director of Engineering *PLD*

re: BENOTHO PLACE TRAFFIC

date: July 28, 1983

action information

response required

date:

copied: Dick Williams
Engineering
Mrs. Roger Williams

This memo briefly summarizes the traffic and roadway conditions on Benotho Place. On July 26, 1983 a traffic count indicated that 55 vehicles per day utilized Benotho Place to the east and north of 85th Avenue S.E. This averages to a little under 8 vehicle trips per house per day which indicates that there are no unusual volumes of traffic being generated by the homes on Benotho Place. The morning peak hour traffic appears to be 5 vehicles per hour and the evening peak hour traffic at 6 vehicles per hour; there was unusual peak between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at 8 vehicles per hour which could have been caused by a special function at one of the homes.

The paved roadway of Benotho Place is normally about 15' to 16' wide with a narrowing to 12' at its middle and a widening to 31' at its north end. There is a portion of gravel shoulder available for parking but because of the narrow confines of the street most of the parking is in driveways and within carports or garages. The narrowness of the street and the high bank from the uphill side tends to create a narrow feeling which reduces traffic speed. There is a slight curve in the roadway but this does not unduly restrict sight distance. The single lane roadway especially as it widens enough to allow two cars to pass should be able to handle the peak of about one car every ten minutes. There have been no reported traffic accidents in the last ten years.

On the waterfront side of Benotho Place 6 of the 7 homes or their garages are very near to the roadway and appear not to meet normal zoning set back requirements often even if a variance was granted. Because of this the normal distance between a garage and the property line and between the property line and the roadway is not available for parking and turning around. This tends to make the street more congested than usual especially if guests have to park along the shoulder of this narrow of a road. The residents of Benetho Place submitted a petition on April 4, 1978 to allow the paving of their street to a width less than the 32' City street standard. The City Council in Resolution No. 754 on April 24, 1978 granted the residents authorization to pave their roadway to approximately 20' width.

If the residents had paved their roadway to the full 20' width there would certainly be no question as to the adequacy of the roadway to carry all the traffic. The present paved width more nearly meets the Staff guidelines for paved roadways which indicates that for between 6 and 10 homes the pavement should be between 12' to 24' in width but that single lane roads with widening at potentially dangerous locations is to be encouraged for up to 10 homes.

PDK:sg

Enclosures: AB 560 of 4/24/78
Resolution No. 754
Street Width Guidelines