

Dear Neighbors,

Let's spend a few minutes discussing our entry/exit gates. I know many of you are wondering about what has been going on with our gates and why our HOA has been spending your dues money to repair them. Like me, you might have questions about how it is possible for a vehicle to make contact with the gate.

First, let's review how our gates are designed to work:

Our Greystone gates have three sensor loops located under the pavement. These loops sense metallic objects (cars, trucks, trailers, bicycles, etc.) and the loops affect how the gate responds to the presence of any vehicles in the sensor areas.



The **first** sensor area is the **APPROACH** area (1) which is the area right in front of the gate.

The **second** sensor area is the **GATE** area (2), which is the area beneath the gate swing arc.

The **third** sensor area is the **EXIT** area (3), just aft of the gate swing area.

When you pull up to the keypad and enter your code (or use your remote), a signal is sent to open the gate. The gate will ensure that no vehicle is directly behind the gate (sensor areas 2 and 3) and then it will open. Once

the gate is fully open, sensor 2 (GATE area) is dropped from consideration, and the gate continues to look at sensor 1 (APPROACH area) and sensor 3 (EXIT area). Once the gate no longer senses the presence of a vehicle in these two areas, it will start the closure sequence. If during the closure sequence another vehicle drives up and enters the APPROACH area, the gate will stop closing and reverse itself. Of course, this gate reversal is NOT instantaneous. In fact, the gate will close slightly, before stopping and then reversing to the open position. According to our gate repairman, the more worn our gate parts become, the more "slop" there is in this process.

If a car has already passed through sensor 3 (EXIT area) and another driver turns the corner from Rocky Point, notices the gate is open, and then steps on the accelerator to try to make it through the gate before it closes, the gate won't begin the reversal process until sensor 1 (APPROACH area) senses the car. Simple physics comes into play at this point.

Consider this: if a car accelerates to 30 mph, it is traveling at 44 feet per second. As you can easily understand, an accelerating car can get very close to the gate before the reversal sequence can get the gate out of the way. This is especially true if the car is hugging the right side of the drive lane, leaving very little room to avoid contacting the gate.

**BEST PRACTICE-** Always slowly approach the gate area when following another car into our development. Don't enter the gate area until you are sure the gate is in the fully open position and is sensing your car. If in doubt, use your remote to send a new OPEN signal to the gate. Tailgating is NEVER recommended! Our gate is designed for both safety AND security, as we don't want interlopers entering our neighborhood. For this reason, the gate is purposely designed to quickly shut as soon as a vehicle exits the last sensor.

The exit gate works much like the entry gate, and also has three sensing loops built into the road bed. Once the exit gate is fully open, it will only look at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sensor areas, just like the entry gate. If a car is just ahead of you waiting to turn onto Rocky Point and you stop your car in the GATE area, it is possible for the gate to close on your car! You need to pull forward through the gate area and into the sensor 3 (EXIT area), which will keep the gate fully open until you drive away and turn onto Rocky Point. If you don't think you have enough room to pull all the way through the GATE area, it is much better to hold short of the gate until the car ahead turns onto Rocky Point and makes enough room for you to get totally clear of the GATE area. Again, tailgating through the exit gate can result in gate-car contact. When in doubt, stop short of the gate and start the entire opening process, again.

In summary, as our gate repairman says, "gates are not smart"! Our gates don't know how fast a car is approaching, don't know how far left or right in the lane a car is, and can't react instantaneously to various situations. Let's all do our part to exercise caution to help prevent unnecessary contact with our gates.

If you have further questions about our gate operation, please call Brad at 826-9948.

Thanks for your time and understanding,

Brad

