

From: Rooney, John
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 4:52 PM
To: HANSCHÉ Brian (CNH)
Cc: Yehlen, Mark; Payne, Nancy; Beth, Darrell; Marcus, Eric; Dickert, John
Subject: RE: Traffic accident/dangerous intersection

Mr. Hansche:

This item will be referred to Traffic Commission in September. We typically meet the third Monday of the month at 5:15 pm. An agenda will be sent to you. At the Traffic Commission meeting the commission will consider the request, and determine whether or not a study is warranted. A couple of items for consideration:

1. 14th Street, Main Street, Wisconsin Avenue and 16th Street are all functionally classified as arterials. As such they carry higher volume average daily traffic (ADT) than roads classified as collector or local streets.
2. Main Street serves as the one-way pair compliment to Wisconsin Avenue in the area, as does Lake Avenue further north. The ADT on Main south of 14th is 5,100 and Wisconsin Avenue is 4,700; with ADT on Main north of 14th approximately 9,100. The consideration of saturating the intersection of 14th and Wisconsin with an additional 5,000 vehicles daily is not done without careful review.
3. In advance of the meeting, I'll have staff prepare a collision diagram of 14th and Main to see what types of crashes are occurring. This allows us to determine frequency (crash rate per vehicles entering intersection) as well as examining if these are crashes that are correctable by traffic control changes (i.e. non-driver error crashes).

This area was looked at many, many years ago and was recommended to be left unchanged due to the minimal crash history at 14th & Main. The intersection of 14th and Wisconsin currently serves an ADT of 13,000. Adding nearly 40% more daily traffic and more potential vehicle conflict points (movements) to this intersection can have significant impacts to crash rate. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

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Mr. Dickert, Mr. Marcus,

My name is Brian Hansche and I live at 1500 S Main. I want to point out yet another car accident that occurred yesterday at the corner of S Main and 14th Street. This is an extremely dangerous intersection for anyone turning left onto 14th and for anyone proceeding straight and north on Main. You cannot clearly see traffic coming from the west due to the house on the corner which forces drivers to inch forward across the cross walk (dangerous for pedestrians) and the speed of cars traveling both directions on 14th and Main are excessive which creates risk in either direction....people become impatient and they make bad decisions. Furthermore, traffic flow on S Main is

ridiculously high volume and most cars are traveling at excessive speeds with zero enforcement.....it is extremely dangerous in front of my house due to all of the parked cars that line up on 15th and north on Main due to the large apartment building on the corner of 15th and S Main. Cars cannot safely turn west onto 15th from S Main due to the parked cars on both sides of the street, the street is extremely narrow and you simply cannot see cars coming in either direction. Let's face it gentlemen.....S Main between 16th and 14th is a drag way and people use it to fly through the city of Racine and the downtown area....folks are not slowing down to see the lake....these are not tourists. Traffic runs through the area 24/7 at speeds that exceed those on Hwy. 20 from downtown to Green Bay Rd.

I think that there is a very simple solution to this very dangerous situation.....open up Wisconsin Ave. to 2 way traffic between 16th and 14th and install a traffic light for north bound drivers on Wisconsin. All of the dangerous elements are reduced or eliminated. Drivers that want to go downtown/north turn right eliminating dangerous left turns and folks wanting to go west on 14th can safely turn with the stoplight. Wisconsin avenue is a wide street and very well suited for 2 way traffic flow and there would not be a need to widen the street to allow for left hand turns.

I simply cannot understand why the City chooses to run all of this traffic down a very narrow street next to the lake. I would love to invite each of you over to my house to take all of this in first hand. I can offer refreshments, snacks and a beautiful view of the lake. I can be reached at 262.865.7545 or at work 636.6449 for further discussion.

Regards,
Brian Hansche