

City of Madison Alder meeting, November 18, 2020

Topic: Traffic Safety

Westside Alders attendees:

- Barbara McKinney – District 1
- Paul Skidmore – District 9
- Christian Albouras – District 20 (host for meeting)
- Nasra Wehelie – District 7
- Zachary Henak – District 10

MPD attendees:

- Capt. Tim Patton – West District
- Lt. Tony Fiore – Traffic
- Lt. Reggie Patterson – West District

City of Madison Traffic engineers:

- Yang Tao
- Tom Moore

Traffic engineering staff

- 66 employees
- 17 hourly/seasonal employees

Major services provided by Traffic Engineering

- Signing – maintain 48,000 signs
- Pavement marking
 - Each year 140 miles of street center lines, 850 school cross walks, 1500 regular cross walks
- Traffic signals
 - 344 traffice signals
 - 69 fiber optic
 - 36 traffic cameras
 - Flashing beacons
- Street lights
 - 14,700 street lights – half maintained by city electricians and half maintained by other entities (MG&E, Alliant, etc.)
- Communication
 - 2-way radio for police, fire and streets – 3,500 users and 8 tower sited
- Pedestrian Bicycle Services
- Special Services

- Traffic Safety programs
- Transportation review
- Transportation and traffic planning

Programs

Neighborhood Traffic Management program

- Traffic calming – speed bumps, calming circles, etc. Work with Fire dept on requests to make sure it doesn't impact service.
 - Yearly process
 - Starts with taking requests – all year long
 - Rank requests – winter
 - Approval of projects – spring
 - Implement projects – Summer/fall

Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancement program

- Limited funding program
 - Yearly process
 - Starts with taking requests – all year long
 - Rank requests – winter
 - Approval of projects – spring
 - Implement projects – Summer/fall

Traffic signal request

- Traffic signal priority list
 - Data collection – done year round
 - Review safety, congestion and future development of the area
 - 3-5 in depth studies are done each year
 - Multi Year process
 - Starts with taking requests – all year long
 - Transportation commission screening and in-depth studies – winter
 - Approval of projects – Winter
 - Design signal - spring
 - Implement projects – Summer/fall
 - In the last year 1,540 requests have been submitted
 - Projects currently under study
 - 29 streets for traffic calming
 - Samuel Dr is on the list
 - 24 streets for ped/bike
 - Junction Rd near Pick 'n Save is on the list

Vision Zero

- Eliminate traffic fatalities, prevent fatal and severe crashes
- Traffic injuries are a growing concern
- Ped/cycle are 4% of the accidents representing 26% of the injuries
- Changes to reduce speed limits
 - Increased speed increases change of fatalities or severe injury because you have less time to stop for ped/bike
- Future neighborhood streets for speed reduction – reducing 25 mph to 20 mph
 - New signs – Slower is Safer and Happier, Healthier, Safer Streets
 - We sound let Traffic know if we are interested in signs in our neighborhood

LED Street Lights

- 6,000 non-LED lights on our streets
- \$3.1 million project over next 3 years to replace non-LED lights – est. savings \$390,000 annually for electricity and maintenance

Traffic Management System

- Manages traffic signals – timing changes and trouble shooting can be done from the office
- Quicker response time
- Large benefit with COVID to help manage traffic, as traffic patterns have changed with more people staying home

Impact of Automated Vehicles

- What will the future bring with self-driving vehicles?

Madison Police Dept report on Traffic

2020 Focus

- Top crash intersections
- School Zones
- High volume/hazardous corridors
- Traffic complaints
- Alcohol, speed, seatbelt, ped/bike safety
 - 2-4 operations a week, 5-7 hours each operation
 - 25-30 speeding citations handed out in a couple of hours
 - Grants are received to help fund these projects

Facts

- 15 fatal crashes this year in Dane County
- As traffic goes down, speed goes up
- Speed and alcohol are main factors – 1,200 speeding citations this year
- Citations are down significantly because of limited staffing for these operations
 - Requiring limited engagement because of COVID

- Staffing needed at support protests
- 2/3 of citations are for hazardous violation
- 35 mph is the highest speed zone for citation, next highest is 55 mph
- Over 500 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) this year
 - On the West side, Gammon Rd, Mineral Pt Rd and downtown are areas with most OWI
- 795 traffic complaints this year

Crime Safety Tips

- Keep garage doors closed
- Use lock switch on garage door opener
- Ask a neighbor to be your garage door buddy to let each other know when you have left your garage door open
- Take keys and garage door remote with you (don't leave in car)
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Lock your service door
- Lock cars when parked in garage
- Check car for extra/valet key
- Don't leave car started and unlocked
- Establish lock-up routine each night
- Don't store keys by garage door
- Take pictures of valuable to help id if stolen
 - Items being stolen – cash, bikes, tools, cars
- Make your house look occupied – turn on lights
- Porch Pirate awareness – stolen packages from porch
 - Make arrangements for you to pick up packages if you aren't going to be home
- Report situations to the police