

Boardman Police Department

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> Captain Loren Dieter

October 22, 2024

I am writing to bring to your attention a pressing traffic safety concern at the intersection of Boardman Ave and Main Street, which handles an astonishing 8,000+ vehicles daily. As the Chief of Police, it is my duty to ensure the safety of our citizens, and I firmly believe this intersection poses a significant risk to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

The intersection in question has seen an increase in accidents and near-misses over a ten-year period. Our department has responded to numerous calls for service, including pedestrian-involved incidents. Unfortunately, a pedestrian fatality has occurred, and the potential for further tragic events is everpresent.

Several factors contribute to the hazardous conditions at this intersection:

- 1. Heavy traffic volume: The intersection is a major thoroughfare, with a high volume of vehicles passing through during peak hours.
- 2. Poor visibility: The intersection's design, including the placement of signs, parked vehicles and buildings, creates blind spots and reduces visibility for drivers.
- 3. Insufficient lighting: The existing lighting is inadequate, making it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians, cyclists, and other vehicles, especially at night or during inclement weather.
- 4. Aggressive driving, including speeding and tailgating, is prevalent due to the intersection's design and driver frustration.

To address these concerns, I recommend the following:

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive traffic study to identify the root causes of the safety issues and develop targeted solutions.
- 2. Install improved lighting, including LED streetlights and pedestrian-scale lighting, to enhance visibility.
- 3. Enhance traffic and pedestrian management devices.

4. Consider implementing Intelligent Transportation System technologies, such as traffic signals with pedestrian countdown timers.

I request that the city allocate necessary resources to address these safety concerns. I am willing to work closely with city officials, engineers, and other stakeholders to develop and implement effective solutions.

Given the high volume of traffic and the severity of the safety concerns, I urge you to prioritize this matter. I look forward to collaborating with you to ensure the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Rick Stokoe

Chief of Police

