

Greetings,

Walter, I apologize for the late email, but it took a while to track down some answers to your questions. Unfortunately, I am still awaiting some MPD data on this. I cc'd Miranda on this email chain as well. Interesting article from Canada you included as well.

In late 2025, administrators from the West Ada School District (WASD) requested the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to activate the speed reduction flashers at all high schools during lunchtime. At that time, I was a Sergeant in the School Resource Officers division and believed this request was made to further reduce potential interactions between student pedestrians and motorists—an initiative I would have supported.

During discussions with Miranda Carson, the Director of Transportation and Planning, she noted that they had become aware of many more students leaving campus on foot at lunchtime. Various school administrators also indicated a reduction in students leaving campus by car and reported that more students were walking to nearby food establishments. This new information raised questions about why speed-reduction lights were not activated during lunchtime.

Typically, the speed-reduction flashers are activated during school drop-off and pick-up times. Miranda collaborated with ACHD engineers to assess how long the flashers should remain operational. They determined that maintaining continuous speed reduction throughout lunch would not be in motorists' best interest. Over time, the effectiveness of flashing lights diminishes as vehicles pass by repeatedly. Therefore, erratic light timings were found to be more effective in keeping drivers alert to potential hazards. Ultimately, it was decided to implement this change at all high schools in Meridian.

Since the implementation of lunch hour speed flashers in late December, the Meridian Police Department has not observed an increase in traffic stops or citations in those areas during that time. To my knowledge, there has been no rise in incidents or injuries either. The information we currently have should include the number of traffic stops during lunch periods at all high schools over the past two years, as well as the number of pedestrian incidents.

I am still awaiting actual data on this matter.

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