

Debra Thompson

From: Dave Thynes <fvnocona@gmail.com>
Date: January 29, 2025 at 12:48:57 PM AKST
To: James Kerr <jkerr@petersburgak.gov>
Cc: Tanya Thynes <tthynes@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scheduling for upcoming public safety board meetings

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Thank you for replying Jim,

The first issue we are wondering about is providing lighting dedicated specifically to the crosswalks that cross Dolphin Street directly in front of the Rae C. Stedman elementary school east and west entrances. There are crossing guards for each crosswalk but inevitably, contrary to school policy, there are students that arrive before the crossing guard's are supposed to be on duty. During the winter months, that stretch of Dolphin Street is very dark when students arrive and leave school. It would be a very effective, comparatively low-cost safety measure to provide lighting that is centered on each of the two crosswalks and possibly flashing amber lights as a reminder for drivers to be very alert while driving through while dropping children off.

To illustrate the risks involved to both kids and adults, I'd like to offer my own recent experience. Friday January 24th, I was nearly struck by a vehicle while I was crossing in the west crosswalk before school started. It was dark, I was wearing dark colored clothing and the driver admitted they were distracted but I was able to jump out of the way of the vehicle before being struck. The driver found me at home shortly after the incident and offered an extremely sincere apology but I couldn't help thinking that it would only take one accident involving a vehicle striking a child in these crosswalks to lose this entire initiative at a price that could be immeasurably more costly to our community than providing better lighting.

The second issue concerns adding four-way stops to Ira II Street. The length of Ira II Street from 2nd Street to Eighth Street has no stop signs interrupting traffic running east and west. We live at the corner of 6th Street & Ira II Street and we have witnessed many vehicles that drive excessively fast along our Ira II Street frontage; our concern is centered on increasing the safety of the kids & other pedestrians walking in our neighborhood by

detering the likelihood of speeding. We propose adding four-way stops along this stretch of road to interrupt the traffic flow to help decrease the likelihood of speeding along Ira II Street.

With the density of housing in this area and the high percentage of younger families living south of Ira II St., we'd like to ask about establishing four-way stops at the intersections of both 4th Street & Ira II Street and 6th Street & Ira II Street, much like the intersections of 3rd and 5th streets with Excel and Fram Streets.

We believe any impacts to slowing traffic flow along Ira II St. would be easily mitigated by drivers simply choosing to use Haugen Drive (only one block north of Ira II St.) as an arterial-style road rather than using Ira II St. if a more uninterrupted traffic flow is desired. Installing four-way stops at 4th & Ira II St. and 6th and Ira II St. would offer a higher level of safety to children walking to and from school in the neighborhoods south of Ira II St. by forcing traffic to stop in all directions at these two locations. We are also hoping another possible by-product of adding these new stops could be reducing the temptation to drive at unsafe speeds along the length of Ira II Street.

Please share our concerns with the board and let us know when the board would like to discuss our ideas.

Thank you Jim,
Dave and Tanya Thynes