



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Increasing Pedestrian Safety in Stevenson

10 messages

Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 7:41 AM

To: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Carolyn, Leana and Ben,

I am working with several local residents to improve pedestrian safety in Stevenson. We have identified some steps that are worth exploring (see list below). Some are low-cost and could be implemented quickly. Others would require more resources, such as the use of traffic signals. (As you know, there are grant opportunities available, including Washington state's Safe Routes to Schools program.)

I have gotten several complaints about two intersections in particular:

[Russell Avenue and 1st Street](#)

[Russell Avenue and 2nd Street](#)

Please let me know who would be my primary contact on this issue – I look forward to hearing your thoughts and working together to enhance pedestrian safety within Stevenson's city limits. Thank you for your time.

Pat Rice

Ways to increase crosswalk safety for Stevenson residents:

- Reflective tape striping to help drivers see sidewalks at dusk and nighttime.
- Reflective signage alerting drivers of an upcoming crosswalk. (See [recommendations](#) from the Federal Highway Administration.)
- Additional 25 mph signage on 1st Street. (Right now, there is [only one sign](#) as drivers enter town from the west.)
- In-road warning lights (IRWLs). These flashing lights are embedded in the pavement to alert drivers of actively crossing pedestrians. (There are [many companies](#) that specialize in these systems.)
- Lighting system that alerts drivers to pedestrians about to cross. ([Tapco](#) is one company that manufactures these.)
- Reduced vegetation at intersections can improve line of sight. (Foliage on shrubbery and trees is an issue at [Russell Avenue and 2nd Street](#), especially in the summer.)
- Parking at intersections can be eliminated or converted to handicapped parking, which tends to receive less use.
- Signage or physical barriers that impede line of sight can be relocated. (See [recommendations](#) from the Federal Highway Administration.)
- Radar speed signs [encourage drivers to slow](#) as they approach vulnerable areas.
- The [Safe Routes to Schools program](#) (SRTS) provides grants to improve safety and mobility for children, encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school. There is [funding](#) available for projects within two miles of a school.
- A local awareness campaign to remind the public that pedestrians always have the right of way, even at unmarked intersections (without crosswalks). See available resources [here](#).)
- Work with the Stevenson-Carson School District to identify where additional crosswalk safety measures are needed.

- Work with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to enforce speed limits and cite drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians using crosswalks. (Targeted enforcement works. See U.S. Department of Transportation recommendations [here](#). And see how one community used targeted enforcement [here](#).)

Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 10:35 AM

To: Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Pat,

I will add this as an agenda item for discussion at the next Council meeting for input on direction and resources to allocate towards this as some items require more resources than others.

Thanks,

Leana Kinley, EMPA, CMC

City Administrator
7121 E. Loop Rd/PO Box 371
Stevenson, WA 98648-0371
(509) 427-5970 x204

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Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 8:39 AM

To: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Leana,

I do not believe it is appropriate for this to be a city council agenda item at this time. Clearly it is within the purview of the city staff to look for low cost ways to increase pedestrian safety within the City of Stevenson. Many of the suggestions mentioned in my email could (or should) be part of the routine maintenance the City already is doing. For example, trimming or removing vegetation that in the summer impacts line of sight for pedestrians and motorists at intersections. Or repainting or replacing worn out or degraded crosswalk markings with reflective striping (see attached photo of worn out striping).

Furthermore, for the more expensive suggestions, it is historically quite common for staff to look for grant opportunities without first consulting with the Council. The City's own traffic study done a few years ago has already documented that increased traffic signalling is warranted at some intersections. One could start by simply keeping an eye out for grants that would cover the cost of putting in traffic signalling and lighting devices that would enhance pedestrian safety.

Again, I believe it is premature to put this item on the City Council agenda as I am not advocating a large expenditure of city resources on this topic. I am simply asking who the contact person would be for evaluating and implementing easy and low cost measures to increase pedestrian safety in Stevenson. Clearly pedestrian safety already falls within the purview of city administrative job descriptions. And as we all know, **it is not the Council's job to "micro-manage" the staff.** But it is appropriate for City Council members like myself to work with City staff on complaints brought forward by our citizens.

Pat Rice

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Degraded crosswalk markings nr. Walnut Park.jpg
5828K

Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 4:01 PM

To: Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Hi Pat,

My understanding was that you were going to get something on my calendar to sit down (or walk down) and review with the folks who you've been working with. Again, Tiffany is a great resource for scheduling and coordinating these meetings. She is cced.

Cheers,

Carolyn Sourek

(509) 427-5970 ext. 206

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Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 4:28 PM

To: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Carolyn,

I did talk to the citizens I am working with about meeting with you, but they felt that trying to set up and coordinate a meeting time with six to seven different schedules was too cumbersome a process. **As an alternative to meeting**, they decided that it was simply easier and better to **(a)** document the problem, **(b)** identify some low cost and other solutions, and **(c)** then present these ideas to the City. We have now done that through my email to you, Ben, Leana and Scott.

The many links referenced in my email, some from Washington state and others from the Federal Government, do outline what better pedestrian safe intersections would look like. However, if you feel meeting on site would indeed be beneficial, I am happy to walk the areas in question with you anytime that works for you or anyone else at the City.

I appreciate your help in working on these pedestrian and traffic related issues.

Pat

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Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 4:38 PM

To: Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Sounds good, Pat. We are and have been aware of the issue with sight distance at the intersections of Russel and 1st and 2nd streets. Because there is literally \$0 in the Street budget for capital improvements, generally speaking, we have been using the TIP to determine which projects to pursue. I would have to agree with Leana, this may be a good item to check in with Council on, as anything beyond maintenance of infrastructure (crosswalk striping [typically completed in the summer due to rain], pruning, and crosswalk flag maintenance) we like to get a thumbs up from Council before pursuing

funding or preliminary design. I know I get frustrated with how slowly these issues get resolved myself. I encourage you to share with the folks you are in communication with to reach out to me directly and rest assured we are aware of the issue and are considering solutions actively.

Carolyn Sourek

(509) 427-5970 ext. 206

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Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us> Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 7:56 AM
To: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Carolyn,

Thank you for this email. I see your point on going to the Council with this problem, but I think we should implement all the low cost solutions first before asking for more money. And there are a lot of maintenance and other low cost solutions that would help. I can think of several, and I'd be totally happy to walk these two intersections with you whenever it works for you. I am free anytime tomorrow (Thursday), anytime Friday before 2, and mostly free during the day all next week.

I do appreciate your time and help on this problem. Thanks, Pat

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Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us> Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 3:14 PM
To: Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

This week is shot for me, Pat. Can you summarize any maintenance or low cost solutions in email or maybe we can discuss prior to the council meeting next week?

Carolyn Sourek

(509) 427-5970 ext. 206

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Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us> Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 7:27 PM
To: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Tiffany Andersen <tiffany@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Carolyn, I think my original email on this was pretty descriptive. Thanks, Pat

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Pat Rice <pat.rice@ci.stevenson.wa.us> Fri, Mar 15, 2024 at 9:10 AM
To: Carolyn Sourek <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Carolyn,

Please keep me informed as to what you, as the Stevenson Public Works Director, are doing to increase pedestrian safety at the intersections in question. I will then pass the information along to the citizens concerned about this issue.

My first email in this string has many suggestions that are easy and simple to implement, such as removing trees and/or vegetation that interferes with line of sight, putting up signage, or working with law enforcement.

Please realize that if there ever were an accident involving a pedestrian at one of the intersections we've discussed, that your acknowledgement that "We are and have been aware of the issue with sight distance at the intersections of Russel

and 1st and 2nd streets" could open the City up to legal liability, especially if you don't take action on the simple things that are within your purview as the Public Works Director.

Pat Rice

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