

DPW – Street/Solid Waste

To: Alderperson Davis and Public Safety & Welfare Committee

From: Stacy Winkelman

Date: March 26, 2025

Subject: Agenda Item

Background

I received a request for a pedestrian crossing sign from Keri Klein who owns The Katherine Holle House at the corner of N. Church Street and O'Connell Street. She is very concerned about the safety of pedestrians in this area as she has seen many close calls. Keri is asking that the city install a pedestrian crossing sign with a solar powered flashing light there. She has also offered to ask businesses to donate to the purchase of this sign to offset some of the cost. I looked at this intersection and there is a standard pedestrian crossing sign for northbound traffic, however there is no pedestrian crossing sign of any kind for southbound traffic.

Budget Goal

The cost of the sign would come from the Street Division Signs & Markings Supplies & Expense Account #01-54-41-18. Labor would be covered from the Street Division payroll account #01-54-31-10

Financial Impact

The current cost of the solar powered flashing pedestrian sign is \$1,099.99. This is the same sign we installed on Boughton Street; it was \$999.90 at that time.

Recommendation

At the very least a pedestrian sign of some sort should be installed for the southbound lane. We could cover the cost of the solar powered sign at this point, if its partial cost, even better.

2025 Operational Goals

The purpose of our operational goals is to identify, prior to the budgeting process, what work the city intends to achieve in 2025. The goals should align with our mission. Not only will the operational goals inform budget prioritization, but they will also guide the creation of the 2025 Department Work Plans.

Present a budget that (in no particular order):

1. Invests in the strategic planning and maintenance of our city buildings
2. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
3. Supports employee retention and growth, while also evaluating operations and the associated staffing
4. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities
5. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends

From: keri.klein <keri.klein@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:32 AM

To: Stacy Winkelman <SWinkelman@watertownwi.gov>

Subject: Crosswalk question

Hi there, I live on the corner of Church and O'Connell. People are constantly racing up and down the street in front of my house. There is a marked crosswalk across Church Street, but several times a week I see near-misses when a pedestrian starts to cross and almost gets hit by a car (my husband included).

I have seen cities with the flashing crosswalk signs, and I've looked into them a bit. They look like they are about \$1000 each. How would I go about requesting one?

I want to ask a few community groups to maybe provide a grant or help with the cost, but I'm not sure what the Street Department says about them.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Keri Klein

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Stacy Winkelman

From: Keri Klein <keri.klein@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 8:15 AM
To: Stacy Winkelman
Subject: Re: Crosswalk question

Ok.

I am requesting information on how we can increase the safety of pedestrians at the corner of North Church Street and O'Connell Street. Several times a week, especially in summer, I see people narrowly miss getting hit by vehicles trying to cross that intersection. With the elementary school nearby, it worries me when the kids are trying to cross. Sometimes if I am outside, I will literally stop traffic to let them cross.

I would love to see a solar paneled flashing crosswalk sign placed there. I think it would really help the speeding on Church Street, and help people to realize they need to stop for pedestrians.

I would like to know if it is legally allowed to place one of these signs on the corner, and if so, I am willing to reach out to businesses or community groups to help fund the sign. I have only done a bit of research, but I believe each sign is approximately \$1,000. Our Bed and Breakfast is willing to help pay for this as well.

Thank you for considering this.

Keri Klein
The Katherine Holle House

Deliver to Watertown
Watertown 53094

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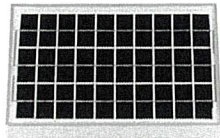
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Material Aluminum
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About this item

- **[MUTCD & FHWA Compliant]** MUTCD Signal Ahead Solar Powered Size 30" x 30". Official Flashing LED Wrong Way Sign are an excellent way to increase driver awareness at intersections. This Solar powered LED blinking do not enter sign roughly 700,000 vehicular accidents occur per year at do not enter signs with approximately one-third of crashes resulting in injury. Precautionary measures for combating this issue include increasing visibility of traffic control signage (source).
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