

MEMO

TO: Chairperson Davis and Committee Members
FROM: Andrew Beyer, P.E.
DATE: February 29, 2024
RE: Public Safety & Welfare Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024

Review and take possible action: Traffic concerns in Riverside Middle School area

Background:

Alder Board received comments from a resident of Fairview Street regarding safety around Riverside Middle School, specifically during school pick-up. An email message describing the concerns is attached as a reference.

The Watertown Unified School District and City underwent a joint endeavor in 2016 to study RMS pedestrian and traffic safety. Ayres Associates of Waukesha completed the study which identified improvements that could be made to school property and surrounding City streets to improve safety. A copy of the report is attached.

A detailed listing of short-range and long-range improvements can be found in Section 6 of the report beginning on page 30. Each recommendation was assessed in detail following completion of the report. Recommendation updates are as follows:

Short Range Improvements

1. Sidewalk was installed on north side of E. Main Street between school entrance and Oakridge Court as part of the 2022 resurfacing improvements project. Sidewalk installation on E. Main Street between Summit Avenue and Fairview Street prohibitive due to utility conflicts, driveway grades, and cost.
2. Continental style crosswalks marked at existing crosswalks detailed in report.
3. Mid-block crosswalk improvements at Boughton Street and Hidde Drive not installed to-date – no receiving sidewalk on Hidde Drive.
4. Existing signage to be revisited.
5. Rectangular rapid flashing beacon signage not installed.
6. Speed board not installed.
7. Stop sign installation not installed due to traffic flow concerns outside of school drop-off and pick-up hours.
8. Lane marking recommendation not installed – inadequate pavement width for proposed improvements.
9. 'Do Not Block Driveway' signage and pavement marking not installed.



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Long Range Improvements

1-3: Realignment of driveway intersections and roundabout installation have not been studied in further detail.

Enclosed:

- Email message
- 2016 Study