



Public Works Agenda Item

Meeting Date: July 14, 2026

Agenda Item: Jakes Way – Howard Road Intersection

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Brad Marquardt, bmarguardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0139

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The Town of Whitewater received DOT funding to improve and repave Howard Road from Cox Road to Bluff Road. The Town reached out to me and asked if Jakes Way should be extended to Howard Road as part of the project. Currently, the pavement on Jakes Way ends approximately 30 feet from the Howard Road right-of-way. The sidewalk on the north side ends approximately 50 feet and the sidewalk on the south side ends approximately 15 feet from the Howard Road right-of-way.

Researching the file for the subdivision the following items were found:

- Preliminary Plat dated April 16, 2004 showing the right-of-way for Jakes Way extending to the right-of-way of Howard Road.
- Notes that the right-of-way of Jakes Way at Howard Road should be angled like the rest of the intersections within the Plat.
- Final Plat for Walton's Pine Bluff signed on February 28, 2005 showing the right-of-way for Jakes Way extending to the right-of-way of Howard Road.
- An email indicating the improvements for Howard Road should be removed from the Developer Agreement due to the owner to the east laying claim to the ownership of the land to the city limits, including the land where Howard Road sits.

Based on this information, I determined that it was the intention of the City to connect Jakes Way to Howard Road at some time, and thus, told the Town to go ahead and include the intersection in their plans.

Some additional details:

- The construction of the intersection is part of the design and overall construction of Howard Road. The City has not been asked to financially participate.
- Construction is currently set for the summer of 2027.
- Maintenance of Jakes Way would be the City's responsibility up to the Howard Road right-of-way. Snow removal would be a coordinated effort with the Town of Whitewater much like the other abutting streets between the Town and City.
- The property owners would not need to maintain the pedestrian ramps in the winter, as they lie in the Town of Whitewater jurisdiction, thus the City cannot issue warnings or citations.
- The intersection of Jakes Way and Howard Road will need to meet all the required sight and stopping distances for the design speed on Howard Road per the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Facilities Design Manual.
- Howard Road is currently paved at 20 feet with 2-foot gravel shoulders. It will be widened to 22 feet with 4-foot shoulders.
- The extension of Jakes Way to Howard Road has nothing to do with the apartment complex at the west end of Jakes Way as the Plat showing Jakes Way and Howard Road intersecting was approved in 2005.

If Jakes Way is extended to Howard Road, one possibility to address the safety of children (due to the assumed increase in traffic) going to and from Waltons East Gate Park on the south side of Jakes Way, could be the installation of an “All Way” stop at the intersection of Jakes Way and Ash Lane. This stop sign would not be recommended per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, nor endorsed by staff, however, the City Council has the final say on the installation of stop signs. This would allow pedestrians and bicycles from the north side of Jakes Way to cross Jakes Way at a controlled intersection. As a side note, the attached aerial shows crosswalks painted at this intersection. When the final lift of asphalt was installed a couple of years ago, the crosswalks were never repainted. Staff will add these crosswalks to the list to get painted this year regardless.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

This memo was presented to the Common Council on June 2, 2026. The Council asked for more discussion on this topic at a future Public Works Committee meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

There is no financial impact for the construction of Jakes Way to Howard Road. There are minimal future maintenance impacts as the street will only be extended 30 feet.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Since the Common Council meeting, staff has also received an email from Strand Associates with their estimate on traffic projections for the new intersection. Also, additional comments were received in response to a letter sent to all property owners and residents in the subdivision.

Staff’s recommendation is to proceed with the extension of Jakes Way to Howard Road.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Aerial of Jakes Way
 2. Preliminary Plat 2004
 3. Final Plat 2005
 4. Email regarding removal from D.A.
 5. Aerial Jakes Way and Ash Lane
 6. Comments Received
 7. Proposed Design
 8. Strand Email on Traffic Projections
 9. Additional Comments Received
-