

Streets and Sidewalks Committee Minutes

12/5/24

Members present: Chair Dave Carlson, Randy Larson

Absent: Diane Redsten

Also present: Rick Tumaniec-WisDOT Traffic Engineer, Mayor Tom Thatcher, Police Chief Paul Evenson, Jim Wojciechowski, Tory-Kale Schulz, Rob Grover, Tara Jergenson, Becky Kamrowski.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Carlson. Committee heard from citizens regarding pedestrian safety concerns in downtown Galesville. Concerns expressed included:

- Traffic going too fast through the downtown
- Traffic failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks
- Crosswalks aren't well marked
- Parked vehicles limit sight lines for pedestrians and vehicles at, and approaching, crosswalks.

Wojciechowski asked if a flashing warning light could be placed on the street to draw motorists' attention to crosswalks.

Schulz advocated for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB). Schulz also stated that his research indicated 1 in 5 traffic fatalities involve pedestrian. Schulz reported that he had previously researched the cost of RRFB and it is approximately \$10,000

Jergenson said she operates Bjorn Naturals, across Main Street from Coulee Boutique. She said she'd be concerned about having to look at flashing from an RRFB all day. It was explained that the flashing is only activated when a pedestrian wishes to cross the road, otherwise it's off.

Grover asked if special events signs and volunteer crossing guards could be used when special events are happening downtown.

Chair Carlson noted that he had received correspondence from a couple downtown businesses and the Downtown Galesville Business Alliance in favor of taking steps to improve pedestrian safety in the downtown area.

Chief Evenson stated that officers do observe some failure to yield. He said traffic might in some cases appear to be going above the speed limit when it is not.

Tumaniec said on behalf of WisDOT that a number of options are available to the city, including limiting parking, better marking of crosswalks and installation of RRFB unit(s). Chair Carlson requested that Tumaniec provide a cost for installation of an RRFB and research whether any grant funds are available. Committee members and Mayor also asked Tumaniec to look into what can be done to slow traffic coming into town from the south on 53 at the stoplights.

Tumaniec said he would provide responses, if possible, prior to the January Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting.

No action was taken by the committee and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.