

PKts. 10-11-19

Fw: Pedestrian Safety on Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Avenue

John Haila

to:

Diane R Voss

10/11/2019 08:16 AM

Cc:

City Council and Mayor, Steve Schainker, kylepoorman

Hide Details

From: John Haila/COA

To: Diane R Voss/COA@COA

Cc: City Council and Mayor@COA, Steve Schainker/COA@COA, kylepoorman@mac.com

Diane,

Please place this email on Disposition of Communications to Council at next meeting (10/22). Council can determine at that time if they want to refer this to staff.

John A. Haila

Mayor



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jhaila@city.ames.ia.us | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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-----Forwarded by John Haila/COA on 10/11/2019 08:13AM -----

To: MayorCouncil@city.ames.ia.us

From: "Kyle Poorman" <kylepoorman@mac.com>

Date: 10/10/2019 10:08PM

Cc: "David Martin" <DMartin@city.ames.ia.us>, GBetcher@city.ames.ia.us, "John Haila" <jhaila@city.ames.ia.us>, "Tim Gartin" <TGartin@city.ames.ia.us>, CNelson@city.ames.ia.us, "Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen" <BBeatty-Hansen@city.ames.ia.us>, ACorrieri@city.ames.ia.us, dleeson@cityofames.org, "Steve Schainker" <sschainker@city.ames.ia.us>

Subject: Pedestrian Safety on Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Avenue

This email is in regard to pedestrian safety on Mortensen Road, west of South Dakota Avenue in Ames, Iowa

Requests:

1. Instruct city staff to develop plans to make this area (Mortensen Road, west of South Dakota Avenue) safer for pedestrians, including putting in crosswalks, putting up pedestrian signage, fully controlling one or more of the intersections, and reducing the speed limit.
2. Develop a city-wide traffic plan with the Ames School District for areas around schools
3. Provide an update on the staff's progress on studying sidewalk or bike path infill in this area (Mortensen Road, west of South Dakota Avenue)
4. I am inviting the Mayor, City Manager, City Council Members, and relevant City Staff to visit this area to understand the pedestrian safety issues in this area

Background

One year ago I contacted the relevant city departments about pedestrian safety along Mortensen

Road and was in touch with Ames City Council about six months ago about sidewalk or bike path infill on Mortensen Road. I believe there are a number of safety issues that should be addressed immediately on Mortensen Road and I would like to invite the Mayor, City Manager, City Council Members, and relevant city staff members to tour the area to witness the safety issues that pedestrians, including students from Edwards Elementary School and Ames Middle School students face when walking or bicycling on Mortensen Road, west of South Dakota.

Safety Issues

No crosswalks across Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Ave.

Lack of completed sidewalk network on both sides of Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Ave.

High speed (40 mph) on Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Ave.

No fully controlled intersections on Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Ave.

No signs relating to pedestrian safety on Mortensen Rd, west of South Dakota Ave.

Proximity to schools and no discernible pedestrian safety measures

Unique features of the area

Edwards Elementary School within 1 block of Mortensen Road

Ames Middle School is near to the area

51 apartment buildings whose parking lots exit on to Mortensen Road, west of South Dakota Ave.

Large number of Cy-Ride commuters

Cy-Ride routes along the street

Additional discussion

This area is characterized by high density housing, with a high population of students. There are at least 51 apartment builds whose parking lots abut Mortensen Rd and many of the residents commute daily to campus. There are also two schools near to the area in question, with Edwards Elementary being only 1 block away. The speed limit is 40 mph and I have witnessed vast differences in speeds between vehicles on this road. There is also not a completed sidewalk network and student Cy-Ride commuters will have to cross the road once during their roundtrip journey to Iowa State. There are also young students walking and riding their bicycles to their respective schools. I believe this area is extremely dangerous for pedestrians and I am now asking the City Council to step in and ask the Ames City Staff to study the situation and make a plan to make the area safer for all pedestrians, especially young children. Because these issues are happening so close to two schools, I am asking the Ames City Council to partner with the Ames School District to develop a city wide traffic plan for areas around schools. Thank you very much for your time and effort. I look forward to your response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

Kyle Poorman