

From: [Jay Vannice-Adams](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Traffic Improvements in Campustown and West
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:08:51 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
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[External Email]

Ames City Council,

I'm writing to you in regards to some traffic concerns that I believe have easy solutions in Campustown and in the western part of the city.

The first is at the intersection of Lincoln Way and State Ave. Heading westbound on Lincoln Way, you'll notice many attempting to turn South onto State Ave. Normally this isn't a major concern, but during rush hour traffic, this becomes perilous each day. As people attempt to turn left, oftentimes only a single car will be able to cross the intersection in the left lane due to oncoming traffic eastbound.

This is further exacerbated by a CyRide about 50-100ft west of the intersection. As people attempt to avoid the backup in the left lane, they take increasingly dangerous and aggressive turns into the right lane, oftentimes only to find themselves behind a CyRide bus and having to slam on their brakes.

It would seem to be that this is a recipe for traffic collisions of all sorts. I believe by adding a protected left turn arrow this could be largely mitigated at low cost. Another easy change that could mitigate risk, would be moving the bus stop 100-200 ft further west, away from the intersection.

I've included a Google street view photo of the intersection in question below:



The second concern I have is with the unprotected pedestrian crossing located on the 2400 block of Lincoln Way. The crossing in question is the single crossing in Campustown along Lincoln Way that isn't at a stop light. Instead, it is in the middle of the road.

This pedestrian crossing, while containing a sign saying its state law to stop for pedestrians, is inconsistent with the rest of Campustown. It is a crossing that is regularly ignored by cars of all kinds, including city vehicles (even police and CyRide). With the state law to stop for pedestrians being regularly ignored by all, it sends extremely mixed signals to those who would use the crosswalk. The signing indicates they *should* be fine to cross regardless of the traffic situation, however doing so could present a great danger.

Additionally, there is an issue of visibility of pedestrians for eastbound traffic. As you can see in the included picture below, with parking directly in front of the crossing on the north side of the road, it can be exceedingly difficult to see pedestrians about to cross the road.

This combination of factors would indicate an extremely high risk of car vs. pedestrian collisions, which could result in serious injury or death.

Again, I think this is relatively easy to fix. An option would be to include flashing lights that can be activated on either side of the crosswalk via a button. This would increase visibility greatly. Combined with targeted enforcement could result in a much safer crosswalk. Alternatively, and likely at much less expense to the city, would be to simply remove the crosswalk. The crossing is only a single block in either direction to a protected crosswalk at a stoplight, one at Welch Ave, and the other at Lynn/Morrill.

Here is the street view of the crosswalk in question:



I appreciate the time of whomever reads this, and I hope you give these two areas some much needed attention.

Thank you all,
Sincerely,

Jay Vannice-Adams