

Diane Voss

From: David Martin <DMartin@city.ames.ia.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Diane Voss
Cc: John Haila; Steve Schainker
Subject: Fw: Re: West Ames Concern

Hi Diane - can you please add this to our non-agenda packet?

Thanks,
David

David Martin
Ames City Council, Ward 3
515.450.1130 cell

----- Original message -----

From: David Martin/COA
To: bonnie.alley@gmail.com
Cc:
Subject: Re: West Ames Concern
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2020 10:28 AM

Hi Bonnie,

Thanks for taking action on your concern. Your email is enough to get Council to decide whether to ask staff to investigate this. Hopefully we will take a look at this at our next meeting. There's no need to attend; we'll simply talk among ourselves and vote to decide how to proceed.

Best,
David

David Martin
Ames City Council, Ward 3
515.450.1130 cell

----- Original message -----

From: "Bonnie Alley" <bonnie.alley@gmail.com>
To: jhaila@cityofames.org, gbetcher@cityofames.org, tgartin@cityofames.org, dmartin@cityofames.org, rjunck@cityofames.org, bbeatty-hansen@cityofames.org, acorrieri@cityofames.org, dleeson@cityofames.org
Cc:
Subject: West Ames Concern
Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2020 8:12 AM

Good morning to you all!

First, thank you to all of you for everything that you do for our community. I know that COVID 19 has brought a lot to your plate but I wanted to reach out to you all in hopes that I could have your consideration on a growing and shared concern. We live in the (Wilder/Bradbury/Rowling) areas off of Mortensen Road.

We could not have chosen a more perfect neighborhood which is growing very quickly which is exciting for all of us who live there. My street alone (Bradbury) has 10 minor children between the four occupied homes. We have 3 new homes currently under construction and I've met one of the new occupants who also have young children. We love it! Wilder and Rowling also have a significant amount of homes with young families with children. It is the perfect location to raise a family with Edwards School being so close. On any given day, you can see these families out walking to and from school or simply for enjoyment in the evenings. It is lively and vibrant. We very much enjoy it when everyone stops to visit each other and it has given us all a chance to get to know each other's families.

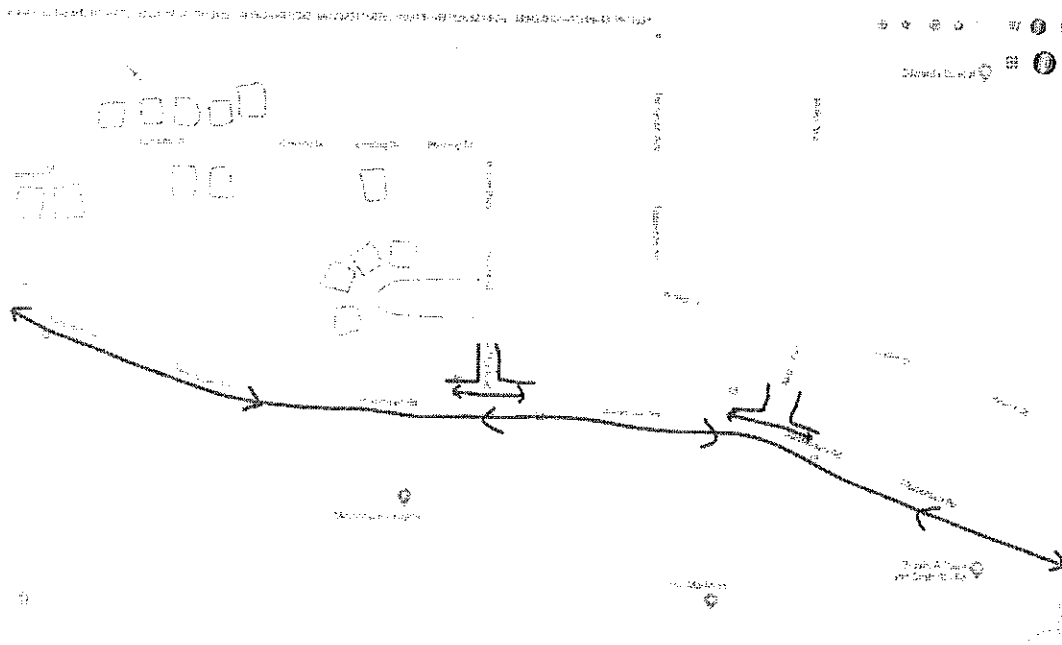
Our concern is the speed limit on Mortensen Road. The current speed limit of 40 MPH is the new 50 MPH or more. When Mortensen was built, the community of homes was much smaller and a majority of the residents were apartments and my guess is that 40 MPH was an appropriate speed for that road.

Mortensen has since, extended greatly. And the development has exploded to include more residential homes and even more apartment complexes to the west. The turning lane is one giant lane that is often used as a passing lane. This causes an open highway feel for many travelers who gain speed often exceeding the speed limit.

We have all witnessed or experienced many close calls,

- Families crossing Wilder on Mortensen, walking to/from school who've had to pull their kids back quickly from people coming into the turn too fast and at times not signaling.
- Motorcyclists and cars drag race along or side by side at excessive speeds.
- People trying to cross Mortensen with their dogs and a car passes CyRide at those higher speeds with little notice.
- Wilder has a No Parking sign on the east side of the street. However, the parking sign itself is set back quite far and therefore many students park illegally (Parking on both sides on a turn) causing very narrow passage for vehicles to turn onto Wilder from Mortensen. If you add speed to this equation, there are many times that vehicles are hit/run, rear-ending happening on Mortensen itself because the person in front isn't progressing through the turn due to another car coming towards Mortensen and families are walking in this area. Possibly an addition of a sign or some yellowing on the curbs would go a long way to help alleviate this congestion.

Pardon my art skills :) I've drawn the new homes that now occupy our neighborhood since google hasn't updated. Please note that there are still empty lots awaiting development. I've also highlighted in red the areas of concern.



Mortensen is unique because it is a residential single-family home, Multi family duplex and apartment area, business and school district all combined in one.

According to the City of Ames - Chapter 26 Traffic under D Section 26.38. Speed Limits by District, Alleys, Public Parks it shares:

- 20 MPH in a business district
- 25 MPH in any residential or school district

Surely we are not considered a suburban district in which we live in a suburb and commute into Ames? I will fully admit I am unsure on this part ;)

University is 4 lanes without resident homes and it is 45MPH

The big one that I found interesting is that Mortensen (*j.*) *Thirty (30) miles per hour from University Boulevard to Hayward Ave; 30 Miles per hour from 2,000 feet west of the west line of State Ave to the east line of South Dakota Ave; and 40 Miles per hour from South Dakota Avenue to the west end of Mortensen Road.*

We both share the same Mortensen Road.

We both have a school.

We both have multi-family homes/apartments.

We have all these added single-family homes.

We have kids that are K-5th who often walk home without parents individually or in small groups.

I am asking you all to strongly consider lowering the speed limit on Mortensen to 30 MPH to match that of the east side of Mortensen. We need this change for the safety of all residents on the west side of Mortensen.

I would be more than happy to ask the other families in the neighborhood to come forward and sign a copy of this email or to come forward themselves if more interest is needed. I do speak for all of us here and it is our hope that we can see some reduction in speed.

Thank you again for your consideration and I wish you all great health in these times.

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Bonnie Alley

"Learn to love without condition. Talk without bad intention. Give without any reason. And most of all, care for people without any exception."