



Dear Mr. Steve Schainker and Mr. Damion Pregitzer

From: Ron Frantzen *Ron Frantzen*

March 23, 2021

Crosswalk updates at Duff Avenue and 12th street

Background:

We have worked together back in 2013 with the installation of the Yellow Safety Crosswalk at the intersection of 12th street and Duff Avenue located by McFarland Clinic and MGMC.

We have witnessed many very close calls at this intersection from distracted or speeding motorists over the past decade. This crosswalk continues to concern us greatly as we feared someone getting hurt or potentially having a fatality due to a pedestrian being hit by a distracted or speeding driver by not obeying the flashing safety lights. I originally requested to have a Red flashing stop light so people could cross safely however, this request was denied. I ended up receiving approval from both of you to have installed a Yellow flashing push button crosswalk as long as McFarland Clinic paid for it. Working with MGMC our two organizations agreed to cover this expense and the Yellow flashing light became a reality. Order was placed by the City of Ames and Brad Becker from the Ames Traffic Department had it installed. Even with this Yield Flashing light in place, there continues to be speeding distracted motorists who do not pay attention to these lights. I had requested the city create a pedestrian safe crosswalk area with street calming features to slow down traffic. No planning or action to these suggestions have occurred.

Recent events:

On March 8, 2021 one of our staff was struck by a vehicle when they were in the crosswalk. They had pushed the crosswalk lights before crossing from east to the west side of the street. They had crossed two lanes of Duff Avenue, a turning lane and then the next vehicle headed south bound on Duff traveling on the inside lane, yielded and stopped. This allowed our staff person to continue to cross Duff when a second vehicle approaching using the outside/south bound lane, failed to yield and stop, striking our staff person. This person was thrown over 30 feet from the impact and suffered serious injuries and was admitted to MGMC.



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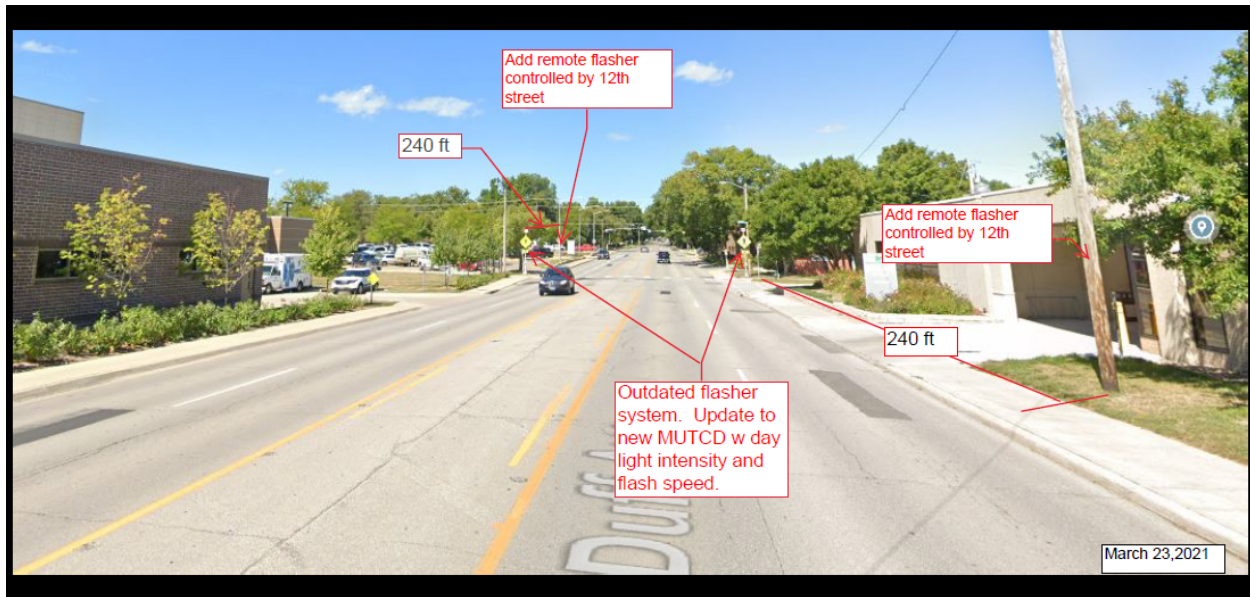
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Further help is need by the City of Ames Public works:

1. Request City of Ames to address traffic calming to slow down traffic in the medical zone between 10th street and 13th street which becomes a high speed race between lights at these intersections.
2. Have a traffic red light installed to be used for the Ambulance garage as well as this intersection to address pedestrian safety while crossing Duff.
3. Update existing traffic crosswalk signals and add additional flashing notifications on each lane. Mobotrex quote is included to update to the current MUTCD standards for flashing brightness and speed of flash.

I contacted Mobotrex which is the company who sold this pedestrian crosswalk system to the City of Ames for use for pedestrian crosswalks. I also spoke to them about our specific site conditions with high pedestrian and fast street traffic. They recommended the current 2013 system that is 8 years old be updated with a new control board and add remote notification flashers to be installed about 240 feet from crosswalk in both directions. A detailed quote is attached.



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4. Have police monitor traffic speed in HM Zone for speeding and distracted motorists.
5. Review options to lower speed down to 25 MPH in Medical Zone
6. Install flashing speed indicators like what was installed south of 9th street on Duff Avenue. How were these paid for?

Please advise how your team can help us prevent another pedestrian and vehicle traffic accident in this area.

Sincerely,

Ron Frantzen
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