

Voss, Diane

From: John Wilson <mjwilson@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 1:06 PM
To: City Council and Mayor
Cc: jellis@friendshipark.org; STONE BROOKE
Subject: Transportation challenges in the Stone Brooke Neighborhood

[[External Email]]

Dear Mayor Haila and Members of the City Council--

I am supportive of City Council authorizing the approval of a study of traffic and pedestrian patterns along the intersection of Fletcher Blvd. and Bloomington that will lead to greater safety, less use of fossil fuels for transportation, and better options for traveling to different parts of the community of Ames. I will not be attending the Meeting on April 26 because of a family visit out of town, but I do want to share a few reflections about the need for change in the transportation usage around Stone Brooke.

Having lived now in the Stone Brooke neighborhood for about five years, I can see there is a need for the city to develop a more flexible transit arrangement for those wishing to travel to other parts of the Ames community. It would seem easy to show that traffic has increased along Bloomington Road the last few years and this has made for some daily challenges; it is difficult to access Bloomington now by car at certain times of the day, and for some residents with mobility or vision challenges, it can be really risky to cross the street. Secondly, it should be obvious the distance to the bus stop from Stone Brooke is really quite a ways, particularly challenging when the weather is a bit more than invigorating. A third point, is here in Stone Brooke the transportation challenge there is a concrete opportunity, with the city's help, for many people in this large neighborhood to adapt to more efficient, more flexible alternatives than to simply using one's own vehicles for all transport. But we do need the city's help to have changes that will result in a picture of more flexible, accessible, and energy efficient means of getting around the city of Ames. I believe increased safety and accessibility will also mean people in Stone Brooke of all ages can live here longer, if they so choose.

Will you please look into alternatives to the current bus system, the current design of the highway plan along Bloomington (maybe including a need for a stop light at Bloomington and Fletcher), the lack of sidewalk access along parts of Bloomington, and the current limited of options within Stone Brooke for getting outside the neighborhood to nearby sites such as bus stops, other neighborhoods, malls, and stores and other areas frequently used by residents? Such alternatives might well be in existence in other parts of the city, in other cities similar to Ames, and may not be expensive or extremely labor intensive. Although, my ideas of possible alternatives are not many, I am confident the city can come up with practical, high quality solutions that will assist making Stone Brooke substantially safer, more accessible to the outside community, and continue to be an inviting place for all to live in.

I hope at the April 26 Ames City Council Meeting you will approve directing the City Staff to move ahead at developing a plan that will ultimately bring more transportation access options to the people of the Stone Brooke community—and to our neighboring Bloomington neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Thank you, also, for the service that you give to the City of Ames..

Please feel free to contact me about any questions or comments you have about this request.

Sincerely,

John Wilson

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