

ITEM#: 30  
DATE: 04-26-22

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT BLOOMINGTON ROAD AND FLETCHER BOULEVARD INTERSECTION**

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 8, 2021, the City Council referred to staff a letter from Jennifer Ellis, Executive Director of Friendship Ark Homes and Community Services, requesting staff to evaluate and implement improvements to mitigate a pedestrian safety concern at the intersection of Fletcher Boulevard and Bloomington Road.

City staff's understanding is that Friendship Ark worked with two families to acquire the home on Fletcher Boulevard. These residents have developmental challenges and require assistance to reside in the home. Access to public transit is a significant form of transportation for the residents; the primary bus stop used is located on the south side of Bloomington Road. At the time of the request, there were no markings or warning signs for pedestrians crossing north-south across Bloomington Road.

Since that time, staff has exchanged several emails with Friendship Ark and other interested residents to better understand the requested desires for this intersection. Additionally, staff has conducted a traffic study of the north-south crossing of Bloomington Road at Fletcher Boulevard. Staff collected speed and traffic counts and evaluated sight distances at the intersection.

Staff uses the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations." The FHWA establishes best practices for uncontrolled crossings based on the speed, volume, the number of lanes, and the context of the site being evaluated. **Using this guidance and the data collection, staff determined that the crossing should have high-visibility crosswalk markings and warning signs. These improvements have already been implemented.**

It should be noted that Friendship Ark has requested that a higher standard be applied at this location due to the resident's developmental challenges, such as a rectangular rapid flashing beacon or a traffic signal.

A review of the crash history at the intersection showed two crashes, one in 2016 and the other in 2018. Both were property damage only, and neither pedestrians nor bicyclists were involved.

**Based upon the site conditions and the FHWA policy guidance, staff is not recommending any further crossing improvements be made until a future resurfacing or reconstruction project occurs on this section of Bloomington. The**

**Fiscal Year 2026/27 Collector Street Pavement Improvements includes work along Bloomington Road from GW Carver Avenue to Eisenhower Avenue.**

The 2021/22 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements along Top-O-Hollow will include sidewalk construction along the north side of Bloomington between Fletcher Blvd and Top-O-Hollow Road, as shown in the attachment. Construction of this sidewalk is anticipated to occur in 2022.

**Rather than make enhanced improvements on an ad hoc basis, the FHWA guidance recommends that jurisdictions take a systematic approach to evaluate pedestrian and bike safety on a system-wide level. This process seeks to establish objective criteria to minimize wasteful investments that do not fit within a system-wide plan. A local example of this is the pedestrian signal on 24<sup>th</sup> Street, near Kent, which was installed after a citizen who is visually impaired requested it. That individual has since moved away and no longer utilizes that investment. This signal is being considered for removal as part of the FY 21/22 Concrete Pavement Improvements (24<sup>th</sup> Street) reconstruction project.**

**Staff would expect that the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan that will begin in Spring 2022 would identify on a system-wide basis where strategic investments, including safety enhancements, should be made in the City's non-motorized transportation system. This process will include input from various stakeholder groups.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

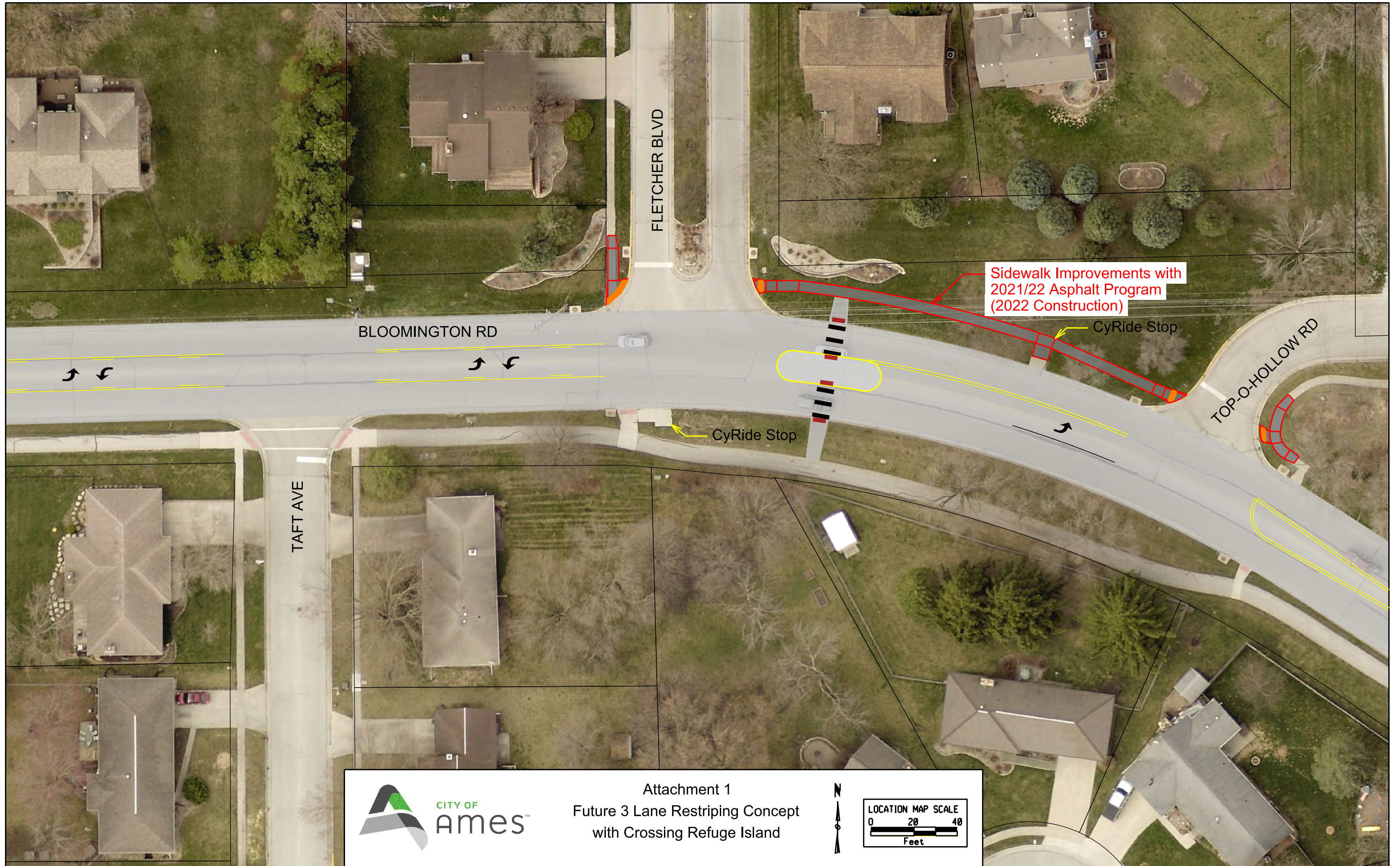
1. Accept the report and direct staff to utilize the upcoming Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to identify where enhanced investments should be implemented.
2. Direct staff to develop alternative treatments for the crossing of Bloomington Road at Fletcher Boulevard with the expectation that these treatments be removed and replaced with the FY2026/27 Bloomington project.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

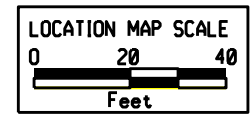
By utilizing the upcoming Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to identify where enhanced investments should be evaluated, the City can most effectively use its resources to improve transportation safety for its most vulnerable users.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.





Attachment 1  
Future 3 Lane Restriping Concept  
with Crossing Refuge Island





Attachment 2: Existing Conditions

