

I grew up in Manitowoc and like many others back in the 70's, moving away after graduation. The streets had been one way for as long as I can remember. I never understood why, it just was what it was. As locals, you learn to work around this seemingly unnecessary diversion of traffic.

I lived in Waukesha for almost 30 years. This is another city that had one way streets right thru the center of their downtown for decades. It was mostly used as a short cut to get from one side of town to the other. **Sound familiar?**

Locals would avoid shopping downtown as it was too complicated for them to navigate.

Out of towners avoided Waukesha at all costs. To try to bring people to town, the ad campaign for years was "Get lost in the Charm". No one finds it charming to get lost! Businesses opened and closed on a regular basis. No one could survive when patrons struggled to navigate and park with traffic speeding through. There just were easier places to buy a cup of coffee., and they did.

The local developers took the lead to try to change the traffic flow. Simply because they had a financial investment in the city, many opposed the suggestion, thinking that it was only going to benefit the rich. "The rich get Richer". **Again, sound familiar?**

Was there some truth to that? Yes. But a city NEEDS people to invest in its future. They only consider investing millions of dollars in an area if they feel that their projects will succeed. Manitowoc is fortunate that our city is sighted as a home of future growth, and has interested investors. Building a larger tax base is a good thing for all.

But is two-way streets a bad idea simply because it may benefit the rich? Of course not.

Two-way streets was right for Waukesha and it is right for Manitowoc.

I still ask, why the one-way? Because it has been that way for decades?

A better question is why should it be two way?

1) SAFETY!

Downtown shoppers, residential neighborhoods (on 8th and 10th/11th) Police and Fire calls, parking and slower speeds

2) Business Development.

3) Intuitive traffic patterns for locals and visitors to our area

The cost:

Of course there will be costs to the city to make the conversion. However, the city has a GRANT for converting the current traffic lights to a more efficient and visible system. That's what makes the timing for this so important. There is no better time for us to take the next step in preparing for the future of Manitowoc.

I know change is difficult, and I know it is hard to visualize how it will work. I am the worst at that. That's what our City Engineers are for. This is GOOD for our city.

Thank you for your time. Stephani Redner 2017 Menasha Ave