

To: Jeremiah Novak
CC: Greg Minikel
From: Paul Kluenker
Date: 12/23/19
Topic: Waldo Blvd. / N. 11th St. Intersection

20-0006

Jeremiah,

Greg Minikel suggested I contact you since you are the chairman of the Public Infrastructure Committee. Allow me to express my concerns about the Waldo / N. 11th St. intersection.

I started writing letters to the city & state about the two intersections at Menasha / Waldo and Waldo / N. 11th St. in the fall of 2016. Here is a portion of one of my letters to Brian Haen, the Manitowoc County Project Manager, regarding the Waldo / N. 11th St. intersection:

The city has told me that due to the quick maneuvering that will be required for traffic proceeding from Menasha Avenue, across Waldo, to the south end of Menasha Avenue, it may consider closing access to the south end of Menasha Avenue. This would force traffic headed for downtown Manitowoc to proceed east to the Waldo / N. 11th St. intersection and then manipulate a "hard right" onto N. 11th St. This extra traffic will cause overloading of that Waldo / N. 11th intersection, especially because semi-trailer trucks will have to swing wide into the second (left) lane on N. 11th St. in order to negotiate this intersection's hard right turn. The current angle turn onto Menasha Avenue and angle turn onto N. 11th provide for an ease of efficient and safe traffic flow towards downtown. I have spoken with several semi drivers and yes, they will be able to negotiate the Waldo/N. 11th right turn, but it will be a much more difficult situation than it is now. The current path for them is the preferred and safer path.

Finally, in March of 2018, I received a reply from Mr. Haen. He did not address the Waldo / N. 11th intersection concern. I had also suggested that the state purchase the property on the SW corner of Waldo / N. 11th St. in order to create a right hand turn lane. (A similar turn lane was created decades ago on the SW corner of the Waldo / N. 18th St. intersection.) But I was told by a city official that the state did not want to spend any more money on the project. I see that the property on that corner is now for sale (asking \$130,000).

So my suggestion would be to re-analyze the traffic flow at this intersection. (It is even already receiving concern by several callers on WOMT's "Open Mic" program.) That intersection is unsafe, due to many vehicles veering into the second lane while turning south onto N. 11th St. It is also a "school zone intersection". We do not need to have children attempting to cross an already unsafe intersection. Now, by basically shutting down the final leg of Menasha Avenue for Waldo traffic heading downtown, the traffic flow at that tight, school zone intersection has greatly increased.

Question: Could we suggest to the city & state that we purchase the property at 1103 Waldo Blvd. & create a right hand turn lane for the eastbound Waldo traffic turning south onto N. 11th St.? The house is already "For Sale" & according to the real estate agent, the seller is "motivated to sell". (Although I'm sure they all are!) Another point is that if 8th & 11th streets become two way streets in the future, this right hand turn lane would be an absolute necessity.

The other option would be to bite the bullet & reconfigure the new Waldo / Menasha / N. 12th St. intersection in order to make the south end of Menasha Ave. the link from Waldo to N. 11th St. This definitely would involve the state because this link would not be re-defined at a state highway. So in summary, I know that the state is going to do what the state wants to do. But I think it is important to create the best & safest flow of traffic at this important intersection.

Thank you,
Paul Kluenker
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PS: Feel free to share the above with anyone you feel appropriate. Or, I could forward it to anyone as you direct me.