

To City Council regarding making 8th Street and 10th Street two-way traffic.

After watching the traffic flow on 8th Street for the past six years, I think it is time to make both 8th and 10th streets two way. Here are my reasons.

1. Get traffic exposure for the downtown businesses. For example, traffic coming from the north come in on Maritime Drive over to 10th street and out Washington. Not realizing they missed the Historic Downtown. Same with the Badger traffic. Off the ship out on Quay and out Maritime Drive. Again, missing the Historic Downtown. We need to route traffic through the Historic Downtown as much as possible. Signs directing people through the downtown would be helpful.
2. Slow traffic on 8th. Many times, I see it become a drag strip with the one-way traffic in two lanes. I have seen motorcycles do wheelies from the light on Washington to the next light. I am surprised a pedestrian has not been hit on that corner. There are many people crossing (8th & Jay) because of Human Services, retail stores and the Capital Civic Center events. Drivers are coming around the corner in the two lanes off Washington without knowing that the crosswalk is there. The crossing on 8th and Jay Street needs to be made safer with a crosswalk light or by some other manner.
3. One-way streets are confusing for both tourists and locals coming into town. They do not want to come downtown because there is not always direct access to their destination without backtracking.

We want locals and tourists to come to our downtown and spend some time here. Many times, I hear people tell me they like coming to our downtown because of the old historic buildings. These buildings and businesses are worth stopping for. People should be able to access the downtown without the confusion.

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The Hearty Olive