

MEMO

To: Mayor, City Council Members & Interested Parties
From: Public Safety Committee, summarized by Robert Barbian, Administrator
Date: July 14, 2016

Re: Hwy 23 Pedestrian Crossing with School Participation

Background:

Hwy 23 Pedestrian Crossing was discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting. The discussion originated from past committee discussions on improving safety, starting with Mike Kasner's concern on lighting at the intersections which expanded to Amanda Wilken's concern with crossing safely any time of day. The group also took an interest in hearing about the traffic study commissioned by the School and City when the Transportation Alternatives Grant application occurred which did not get funded. Mike Kotala, Traffic Engineer with SEH presented the study to the committee covering many details including his work with MNDOT to develop the recommended enhancements. The study is a step in the process to obtain permits to install the improvements.

The study highlights improvements including a rapidly flashing beacon at Broadway similar to the quote at \$6,388.00 but perhaps more to ensure MNDOT approval. The 8th Street intersection a larger overhead structure with rapidly flashing beacon at a ballpark cost of \$75,000, necessary thought best at a later date, and a radar speed feedback system costing about \$3,000 - 5,000. At the meeting a MNDOT pilot program to narrow lanes with techniques using marking, concrete and or paint was also covered.

The committee had lengthy discussion. Rick Olson of the school district encouraged forward movement on the solutions recommended in the study. He further suggested that he would take to the Board a proposal that the District fund up to \$10,000 for the equipment purchases for the rapidly flashing beacon at Broadway and up to \$5,000 for the radar speed feedback system at 8th Street if the City would be responsible for the installation and permitting. This was discussed at length amongst the committee.

Public Safety Committee Recommendation:

Recommend the City Council move forward with the school district to improve the safety of the Hwy 23 Pedestrian crossing by completing installation of speed indicators, a Broadway crossing and support participating in the MNDOT lane narrowing pilot study with the School District funding up to 10K in equipment at Broadway and 5K for speed indicator signs at 8th street and the City take responsibility for permitting and installation. This was in the form of a motion receiving unanimous support.