

Mark H. Evans
7635 Widgeon Way
Madison, WI 53717

To: Rob F. Phillips, P.E., Exec. Sec. % Scott Langer
Board of Public Works
City of Madison
Madison, WI

Date: Wed. 22 June 2011

Re.: Plans for 2011 installation of traffic signal light at intersection of Old Sauk Rd. & N. Westfield Rd.

As a neighborhood resident, I have concerns regarding:

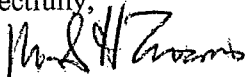
- A. the need for this signal light, which would cost between \$70,000 and \$150,000 for installation, plus an unknown amount for annual maintenance
- B. plans to acquire installation funding through a special billing to condo owners

The assumed need for this signal light is based on various mathematically derived calculations which attempt to account for density, land-use and proximity to alternative routes of neighborhood access. I understand that and appreciate efforts made to make an assessment of this need, as objective as possible. For me, it is important to note that I do regularly go through this intersection and have never considered this intersection to be congested nor unsafe. Sometimes, at highest traffic times of the day, a couple of north-bound cars on Westfield have short waits to make left/West turns on to Old Sauk and sometimes West-bound cars on Old Sauk have short waits to make left/South turns on to Westfield, but any such waits, when necessary, have appeared to be brief and not more unsafe than any other left turns on city streets. Further, the width of Old Sauk permits West-bound traffic to pass any waiting cars on the right so traffic is not held up if any cars are waiting to turn South on to Westfield. Further, there are no schools or other properties at this intersection requiring a traffic light to aid higher-than-normal pedestrian street crossings. In summary, based on observed use, this intersection does not appear to warrant the expense of installation and maintenance of a traffic signal.

The plan to acquire installation funding through special billing to condominium residents in the neighborhood is not logical. Likely, this concept is based on an early 1990's idea that condos were high-rise, multi-unit buildings, not unlike large office buildings, which dumped large amounts of traffic out of a single driveway directly onto a street near an intersection. Condo areas on the West side of Madison are not like this. Further, condo complexes on the West side of Madison actually save Madison money. We pay for our own street plowing in the winter. We pay for our own road maintenance. We pay for our own garbage collection and recycling. We pay for our own brush pick-up. Further, many of our residents are retired and actually are less likely to dump traffic on to local streets at "rush-hour" times than are private properties adjacent to us. For all of these reasons, it is simply not logical nor fair to place the financial burden of installing a traffic signal of questionable need on residents of condo complexes in our neighborhood.

Conclusion: I appreciate the work of Traffic Engineering in the City of Madison for their objective efforts to evaluate this need using the tools available to them. I disagree with the conclusions and believe there is an insufficient need warranting a signal light at this intersection. Further, I disagree with the assumption that condo owners in this neighborhood have any different responsibility to fund this work than would any other private residence owner in our neighborhood.

Respectfully,



Mark H. Evans, 7635 Widgeon Way, Madison