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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 3:32 PM

**To:** Mohr, Thomas <[TMohr@cityofmadison.com](mailto:TMohr@cityofmadison.com)>

**Cc:** Rummel, Marsha <[district6@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district6@cityofmadison.com)>; Ross W <[ross.wuennenberg@gmail.com](mailto:ross.wuennenberg@gmail.com)>; Tao, Yang <[YTao@cityofmadison.com](mailto:YTao@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Potential alternative to speed humps for 800 Spaight Street

Hello Thomas.

TC Agenda 02.26.20  
ITEM F.3.

Thank you for the effort to redesign the intersection. This would help thwart many of the illegal turns into the street. It is what we first spoke about several years ago. It is good to see the potential for this kind of alteration to the intersection. Maybe it could include bollards as a visual deterrent to the westbound speeders on the street. Bollards would protect the pedestrians at least.

However, it is the occasional westbound speeding that would go unchecked. Because the most dangerous of these occasional high speed chases have been so rare they would no likely turn up in a standard weekday speed test, than a random temperature check would find illness in a child.

I watched the Transportation Commission conversation on the topic, and since none had experienced the problems, they seemingly appeared to be overstated or didn't exist. To illustrate the three high-speed crashes, I've attached my photos and notes for you to share with commissioners.

This extraordinary location of the parkside street deserves special consideration to preventing a crash that could potentially kill pedestrians and cyclists alike. I understand the desire to keep the street hump-free for the pleasure of cyclists otherwise.

I will plan on being at the Commission meeting tomorrow. What is the time/location?

Thanks.

Gary Tipler

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On Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 1:36 PM Mohr, Thomas <[TMohr@cityofmadison.com](mailto:TMohr@cityofmadison.com)> wrote:  
All,

The Transportation Commission will be considering alternatives to speed humps for the 800 block of Spaight Street at their meet next week (Wednesday, 2/26). At the previous TC meeting, commission members asked TE staff to look into alternatives as the speed study did not show a speeding problem.

There are two attachments to this email. First, is a list of streets within the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program ranked by various speed metrics (nine sheets). Second, is a draft plan which reduces the width of Spaight Street at the Jenifer Street intersection. This is an attempt to dissuade traffic from driving the wrong-way from Jenifer Street onto Spaight Street, which seems to be, at least, part of the problem on this block.

Let me know if you have any comments, and feel free to forward this information to any residents who may want to attend the Transportation Commission meeting to have their voice heard. Just as a reminder—if this is approved by the TC, it will then need to be approved by the residents via a mail-in survey (60% approval of returned surveys required).

Thanks,

Tom Mohr, P.E.

Traffic Engineering

City of Madison

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## **800 Block of Spaight - Car Crashes & High Speed Incidents, A Call for Traffic Calming**

Notes by Gary Tipler. January 5, 2019. Revised Feb. 25, 2020, to simplify and update notes.

### **Background**

To request City action on the dangerous **occasional** high-speed traffic on the 800 Block of Spaight Street, neighbor Ross Wuennenberg submitted an application with appropriate consent of property owners and residents for a traffic calming study, planning and possible installations. We neighbors who live with the dangers of the reckless driving on this block feel that something must be done before someone is killed.

### **Timeline**

City Received Application June 6, 2017 by Ross Wuennenberg

City Staff review of applications, summer/fall 2017.

Bike-Ped Commission Review and Staff Ratings, January, 2018. Mistaken information and lack of crash information, park adjacency, etc. lead to a low rating.

Re-review requested January, 2019. Review resulted in meeting standards for traffic calming planning.

Staff recommendation of speed humps provided to Transportation Commission, Jan. 22, 2020.

Alternative studies recommended by Transportation Commission. Jan 22, 2020.

### **Overview**

I've lived on the 800 block of Jenifer at Spaight for the past 21 years. High-speed chases through the Williamson-Jenifer-Spaight neighborhood resulting in crashes began with frequency in 2013. Since then, there have been at least 9 high-speed incidents involving vehicles that resulted in 8 crashes, one death, several people hospitalized, two businesses knocked out of commission for months, three electrical poles damaged that required replacement, and several power outages. Drinking and or drugs were involved in all eight crashes.

**Listed below are brief accounts of the crashes associated with the 800 block of Spaight Street, in the hope that a common sense plan to introduce safety measures can be approved, planned and installed by the City.**

### **Justifications for Traffic Calming for the 800 Block of Spaight**

1. B.B. Clark Park and Beach are heavily, particularly by children during the summer who cross the street anywhere midblock. Since a priority has been to protect children around schools, it should be a priority to protect them where they play during non-school months.
2. The block is part of the Capital City Trail, a designated bike route.
3. There have been numerous crashes and high-speed incidents, on and within a block of the 800 block of Spaight during the past four and a half years. None were listed in the City's 2017 evaluation for this block. Listed below are those crashes.
4. The unusual physical characteristics of this block: parking on only one side of the street, no buildings on the south side of the street, and a wide open expanse 18 feet above the lake appears to encourage acceleration of vehicle speed. The unique physical setting requires a unique solution.

## The Crashes

**April 23, 2013.** 800 Block of Spaight, B.B. Clarke Park, across from 836 Spaight. Eastbound (wrong way) high-speed car hit power pole and broke it and causing a power outage. Reported by Ross W.



**April 11, 2014.** A west-bound driver under the influence of drugs drove erratically through the neighborhood for an hour before police caught up with his vehicle. **A high-speed police chase at 70 to 90 mph, west on Spaight preceded his crash at approximately 1 p.m.** into a street sign at the west end of Spaight at Jenifer and Livingston and a power pole across the street, splitting the pole and knocking out power for part of the neighborhood.



**August 30, 2014** Street signs and hydrant were taken out by **west-bound** high-speed driver who jumped the curb and crossed two sidewalks, during the afternoon.



**April 16, 2017.** Posted on the Marquette Neighborhood Association listserv, April 17, 2017.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MarqNA/conversations/messages/14519>

Shortly after 10 p.m. last evening, **another high-speed west-bound** joy ride missed the curve at the juncture of Spaight at Jenifer Streets. **The car jumped the curb, crossed two sidewalks and took out two street sign poles**, dragging one along with its concrete footing beneath the front wheels of the car nearly a half block on Jenifer before coming to a halt. The occupants of the car fled.

**This is the third time in two years this happened with west-bound drivers.** A fourth incident last year involved an east-bound driver who hit a power pole mid-block on the park side. Two incidents knocked out two separate power poles affecting the immediate area, one took out a hydrant, and three took out street sign poles. **The three previous incidents took place during daylight hours.**

**It would seem that the "Wyoming effect" of unimpeded big sky view over B.B. Clarke Park may give some drivers a sense to speed on this block.** Fortunately, no pedestrians, cyclists or vehicle-bound folks were hit.... **this time.** – Gary Tipler

