

From: [Josh Olson](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Agenda #4 - We should test no rush hour lane
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 6:36:20 AM

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Hi,

I'm in support for test trialing removing the rush hour lane on Willy. The street shouldn't have fast drivers on it, and with my limited knowledge of how traffic works, I think drivers would be better suited going to an underused E Washington if they want more than one lane.

More importantly, I think this is an opportunity for the City to step up and try something. I read this piece last week (<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2025/8/4/what-happens-when-residents-act-and-cities-shut-it-down>) that seems to be describing how City Staff is approaching this potential test trial.

A business has been hit 4 times. They have installed bollards, but their customers should not have to fear thousands of pounds of metal hurtling at them due to reckless driving. 91% of the day the street is limited to one lane each way. We know the street can operate this way, even with the left turn lanes that people meme about on line ("you better not turn left on Willy"). It sounds like some businesses would also like for their customers not to face tickets at normal business hours.

I can understand the desire by staff to try and quantify this. How many people want this? How do we know if the change is good or bad?

You know the NA wants this and the alder is interested. You have information on how many crashes have occurred, maybe traffic speeds, but at the end of the day you can just cover the signs, put out a big electronic sign at the beginning saying "no rush hour lane", and see what happens. Is there too much traffic? Do cars move to E Washington later in the week to account for that? Are speeds reduced?

Last thing: please do this in house. We don't need consulting for a project that should be performed by Staff. It will cost more and won't help with future testing of other streets.

We should move forward with this before John Nolen construction and the City should perform the testing.

Thank you,
Josh Olson