



February 10, 2012

Madison Area Technical College City Approved Wright Street Improvements

As part of the developer agreement approval process, Madison College received written approval from the City of Madison, Board of Public Works on June 8, 2011, to convert a section of Wright Street through its Campus near the current crosswalk from four lanes to two travel lanes. This will significantly increase pedestrian safety. The project schedule for this work was approved by the City Engineer, Robert Phillips, on June 20, 2011.

In the agreement, one of the existing crosswalks will be eliminated to provide a single cross walk. Additionally, the cross walk will be raised to further improve pedestrian safety. The existing outside travel lanes will be converted to bus lanes and areas for passenger drop off. In addition, the entrance to the existing parking lot west of Wright Street, which is now restricted to inbound traffic only (no exiting traffic), will be further restricted allowing southbound right turns inbound only (northbound left turns inbound will be prohibited). The former faculty parking area in the Wright Street west was moved in August 2011 to the property just north of the College on the east side of Wright Street adjacent to the building currently housing the Penske rental truck operation.

Traffic counts conducted in 2011 and historical traffic counts taken by the city in recent years show existing daily traffic volumes (ADT) on Wright Street adjacent to the College are about 4,000 ADT. Projections done as part of the recent traffic study conducted by the College show that this will increase to 5,000 ADT over the next 10 years. This assumes a 20% increase in current college enrollment and a 10% increase in background traffic. These traffic volumes do not warrant a four lane roadway. Instead the College will convert the underutilized outer travel lanes for bus usage, bike lanes, and auto passenger drop off.

These improvements are being done as a part of the College's building expansion to provide a safer means for the large number of pedestrians crossing Wright Street. The College completed a study on the safety impact of the pedestrian crossing improvements in late 2012, and will conduct a temporary "barrel test" (as requested by the City) this spring for a 60 day period to verify the impact of the June 2011 City approved lane reduction, before it is fully implemented later this year.

The addendum before the board stipulates the College will be responsible to remove the bump outs on Wright Street if the City deems the bump outs are detrimental to the overall pedestrian and vehicle improvement, as determined by the Common Council after consultation with Madison College. Based on the numerous detailed studies done to date (see website below), and the barrel test that will be conducted this spring, the College is confident there will be not be any issues with installing the approved bump outs.

Madison College is in the process of contacting all the businesses in the Truax neighborhood who may be potentially affected by the barrel test and the installation of the bump outs.

The Traffic Study, Parking Study, Bicycle and Pedestrian Study, Transportation Demand Management Study, and existing traffic counts are available for review at www.saa-madison.com. Click on the access tab and enter the following name and password:

Login Name: MATCTransportation

Password: 2434_MATC

Select the file you would like and click the download button located in the toolbar.

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