

Murphy, Brad

From: Rummel, Marsha
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2011 11:21 PM
To: Murphy, Brad
Subject: Proposed intersection project at Mineral Point Road and Junction Road

Brad- Please share with Commission members.
Marsha

From: Karen Eigenberger [keigenberger@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha
Subject: Proposed intersection project at Mineral Point Road and Junction Road

Dear Alder Rummel,

This morning I called and left you a message regarding the proposed project at the corner of Mineral Point and Junction Roads known as the "jug handle project". I would like to know where you currently stand on the project.

Are you familiar with this project and its impacts? Are you for it or against it? Would you be willing to consider a specific alternate intersection upgrade that (1) costs less; (2) is now being used and has proven to be effective at other intersections in this municipality; and (3) does not threaten the continued existence a 55 year old Madison owned small business?

Below is background on this project:

In 2008 the City of Madison first introduced the redevelopment of the intersection at Mineral Point and Junction Roads. At that time engineers presented 3 different road construction plans. The first two proposed additional turn lanes and traffic patterns. The third was the jug handle which would force Steve's Liquor to be displaced.

Since that time the city has decided to push forward with the "jug handle" design. The project, although planned for earlier, was pushed back and the city has just informed us that it is now slated to begin construction of the jug handle in early 2012.

We at Steve's have been left out of the planning process We were first contacted in 2008 by the city and there has been minimal communication from them until April when we were informed the project was going forward and we would be forced out. We have not been allowed to speak to the planning committee nor the City Council. We have made suggestions to the City Engineers and they have refused to seriously consider them.

The total cost of this one intersection project is \$18 million. Half of the project will be federally funded, half local. Of the 'local' \$9 million, the county will pay for \$1 million. The City has told us that much of the remaining \$8 million will come from tax assessments.

There are alternatives to this \$18 million jug handle.

Consider other options like adding additional turn lanes. This could be done at a MUCH lower cost, and seems to work just fine at one of the City's busiest intersections (Hwy 51 & Hwy 151). After reading research on "Jug

Handles" I have learned that they are only expected to increase traffic flow by about 5 - 10% over an intersection with 2 or more turn lanes. Is that a sufficient amount to warrant the cost?

Currently Pleasant View Road (west of Junction Road) is being reworked and extended into Hwy M, with the intent of taking pressure off of the Hwy M (Junction Road) artery. Wouldn't it be logical to wait and see what effect this change has on traffic counts at the Junction Road/Mineral Point Road intersection before going forward with such a costly undertaking?

Currently there is only ONE turn lane in each direction at the corner of Mineral Point Road and Junction Road. Since the initial development in this area and this intersection back in 1995, NO additional turn upgrades such as adding turn lanes have been done. Shouldn't some steps be taken on improving an area and intersection before a complete, massively expensive plan is adopted?

I ask you to be diligent and research this issue thoroughly before proceeding. I understand that the City Engineers are anxious to get started on their new project, but they will not be held accountable for budget overruns - you will.

In addition, Steve's Liquor, a locally owned Madison business will be forced out of its location. We will be forced to break our long term lease at our present location. It threatens the continued existence a 55 year old Madison owned small business. If a suitable location can be found, Steve's will incur great expense in relocating. A great deal of the costs are not covered by the city. The laws governing and setting rules for reimbursing business for relocation costs were passed over 30 years ago and have not ever been updated to reflect current day costs. I am certain our small business will greatly suffer incurring great debt in relocation expenses