

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS  
ITEM F.1.  
PBMVC 01.26.16

Hello Mark

Thank you for your email about this important issue. I hope our comments are not too late.

My husband and I live at 17 Yellowstone Drive and we heartily endorse the idea of traffic lights in the intersection of Yellowstone and Mineral Point. We walk and drive through that intersection several times a day and believe that it is truly a dangerous place. We also bike but never thru that intersection! I would assume that no parent would allow their child to cross there without an adult. A traffic light would greatly increase safety. Turning left in the intersection feels dangerous especially because the cars coming down the hill going east on Mineral Point tend to exceed the speed limit so slowing the traffic down with a traffic light would increase safety.

There is a bus stop in the intersection so people who take the bus may need to cross Mineral Point. Walking across Mineral Point is down right scary. I often end up standing in the narrow median strip waiting for a safe way to cross the rest of the way and cars drive past me very fast. I also suggest that there be left turn arrows in the light that work all the time to allow for safer left turns.

And while I have your attention I want to share another concern with you about safety. Please suggest to the traffic people that the left turn arrows in the corner of Mineral Point and Gammon be left on for the full day. Now they are on only during morning and afternoon. This crossing is notoriously dangerous and making left turns more safe will prevent many accidents.

Sincerely,  
Sinikka Santala and Greg Schmidt

Sent from my iPad

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Mark,

If what John S. says about lights is true, maybe I am mistaken. Perhaps a better solution is to make a straight-ahead/left-turn only lane going north on Yellowstone (the road south of Mineral Point) and then drivers' intention could at least be guessed at based on their lane and turn signal use. Combined with a no u-turn on Mineral Point at that intersection might ease traffic flow enough. I don't mind detouring down Grand Canyon for the safety of a light.

I do wish they would make the Colony & Gammon intersection right turn only during morning rush. Or at least paint lines on Colony for a left-turn only lane. That would immensely improve traffic flow because people turning left don't scootch over enough to allow right-turn only people to get by.

Either way, I count on you to negotiate a reasoned solution. Thank you for your work.  
Michaela

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I agree with John Sobotik that the City Engineering Department should revisit this request and apply the guidelines he references to the analysis and to future recommendations.

Mary Beth Plane  
Island Drive

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Hi Mark,

Thanks for letting us know about the traffic light issue. I have some thoughts to share.

Exiting Parkwood Hills neighborhood by car, at the Yellowstone/Mineral Point intersection, I mostly turn east onto Mineral Point, and occasionally cross Mineral Point. To go west, I use the Grand Canyon/Mineral Point intersection. The Yellowstone/Mineral Point intersection is very simple, straightforward and efficient to cross at non-rush hour. At rush hour, not only is there heavy traffic on Mineral Point, but there are often three or more cars - that can come from all four directions - using the crossover at the same time. It is not easy for Yellowstone traffic to cross that intersection. Perhaps, signs could be put up, on Yellowstone, either recommending or requiring right-turns only onto Mineral Point Rd, during rush hour, with posted times. This would allow Mineral Point Rd traffic to still turn at that intersection. This would mean that traffic entering the crossover is coming from only two directions (east and west Mineral Point traffic) instead of four. That simpler pattern is much more straightforward and perhaps, safer.

I also walk across that intersection occasionally in nice weather. It's tricky enough at non-rush hour because of the speed of cars, cars on Mineral Point making u-turns, and cars cresting over the hill to the west. I don't attempt it at rush hour. I use the signal at Grand Canyon.

My children, husband and I occasionally ride our bikes on the sidewalks of Gammon Rd. I don't know how bicyclists have the courage to ride their bikes on Mineral Point Road, instead of on the sidewalk. Perhaps, bicyclists should be encouraged to ride on sidewalks instead of a bike lane that is unprotected by a safety median or curb, along arterial roads, in general. On arterial roads, it seems that using just a painted line allows faster driving and distracted drivers to cross it without noticing, putting cyclists in danger.

Sincerely,  
Adrienne Norton  
Gettysburg Dr, Madison

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Dear Mark,

Except where obviously needed, I oppose traffic signals because they actually turn out to be worse than no signal. The reason is that they are totally indifferent to the amount of traffic, and very few, if any signals, are active only during morning or evening rush hour. I frequently turn onto Mineral Point or cross it at Yellowstone, and there are times when I've had to wait perhaps 45 seconds or so, but there have been more times when I've been able to move on without delay. Those who favor signals seem to concentrate on the wait times, and to forget that with a signal there will be many instances when they'll have to wait even when there's no traffic. On the other hand, if the City changed many signals during non-rush hour times to what it does with some signals at night, turning them into blinking yellow/red, the situation would be very different. City-wide that would cut down on an enormous amount of wasted time, and on an enormous amount of wasted fuel.

Tom Duff  
' Saratoga Circle

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Hi Alder Clear,

Thank you for updating us about tonight's meeting and giving us plenty of time to interact with neighbors and learn from one another. I do think the traffic on Mineral Point Road is getting more and more dense and I appreciate that you are looking into options to calm the traffic, in particular at Yellowstone and Mineral Point Road. I have to admit, I avoid that intersection and have taught my teen driver to do so as well. Our family uses Grand Canyon instead due to the traffic light. However, increasingly, I've had close calls with drivers on Mineral Point Road, from either direction, who fly through what is clearly a red light for them, and a green light for me when I'm on Grand Canyon. It's pretty scary and seems more common when the drivers are headed west on Mineral Point Road toward Gammon, over the hill. I know Grand Canyon is not the subject of tonight's meeting but would it be possible to ask the City Traffic Engineer some questions to help him or her consider the impact of efforts on Yellowstone in terms of the Grand Canyon perspective as well?

I look forward to learning how the meeting went.

Many thanks again,

Anna Schryver

Blue Ridge Parkway  
Madison, WI 53705