

From: Angela M Montpas <ammontpas@madison.k12.wi.us>

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 3:16 PM

To: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>; Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Hello Mr. Mohr,

Thank you for sharing this information with me. I can understand the hesitation with speed humps. I was wondering about the report. Were the speeds checked only between Putnam and Piedmont? I'm asking because it seems like speeds are faster than what's reported here by the time the cars get in front of our school. It also seems like the flashing speed limit sign may help initially in dropping speeds but I wonder what speeds they are reaching near our crosswalk as they go down the hill?

Lowering the speed limit to 25 mph may help. I also think building out the curbs may help. Last week we had a driver who had to slam on their breaks because they were watching the buses and kids on one side of the road and didn't see the crossing guard walking out on the other side of the road. It may be beneficial if the crosswalk was more visible. I think the flashing signs are quickly ignored as people get used to seeing them.

I am not able to be at the meeting on Wednesday due another meeting already on my schedule. I believe there may be a PTO parent who lives in the neighborhood and regularly uses the crosswalk that is planning to attend.

Thanks for your help!



Angie Montpas, PhD

Principal, Huegel Elementary School
608-204-3100 | ammontpas@madison.k12.wi.us
<https://huegel.madison.k12.wi.us/>
2601 Prairie Rd Madison, WI 53711

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On Mon, Feb 17, 2020 at 3:09 PM Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:
Ms. Stamm, Alder Albouras, and Principal Montpas,

I wanted to give you an update on the speed hump situation for Prairie Rd at Huegel Elementary. As mentioned in the emails below, the City's Transportation Commission asked for further speed data and exploration of options other than speed humps for Prairie Rd. I have compiled the speed data, and that is attached to this email. This data will be discussed at the next Transportation Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 26 at 5pm in Room 215 of the Madison Municipal Building. This is a public meeting and would be your chance to speak in favor of speed humps for Prairie Rd. Each member of the public is allowed three minutes to speak. You also have the option of sending an email to the commission to publicly state your support or opposition.

As far as options other than speed humps, I see three main options:

1. Lower the speed limit signs from 30 mph to 25 mph
2. Construct curb "bump-outs" at the crossing-guard location to increase pedestrian visibility and shorten the crossing
3. Install a "Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)" at the crossing-guard location

If you could let me know your thoughts on any or all of these, that would be helpful.

Thanks,

Tom Mohr, P.E.
Traffic Engineering
City of Madison
(608) 267-8725

From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Hi Christian and Thomas,

I am looking forward to a meeting with you.
I have evenings after 5 pm. or afternoons available, afternoons 12-2 pm. Except Monday.
Thank you for your follow up.
Barbara Stamm
Sent from my iPad

On Feb 4, 2020, at 8:10 PM, Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com> wrote:
Mr. Mohr:

I hope this message finds you well. Yes, any alternatives to address these traffic safety concerns as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated. Ms Stamm: please let me know when you would be available to discuss further. And, if you would like, we could look at scheduling a conference call with Mr. Mohr to discuss the process further. Thank you very much.
Regards,

Alder Christian Albouras
Madison Common Council | 20th Aldermanic District
Email: District20@cityofmadison.com
Phone: 608-358-8387

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From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Mohr, Thomas
Cc: Albouras, Christian
Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Dear Thomas,

Does speed limit plus 5 equal 35 miles per hour or 20 plus 5?
So sorry I missed the meeting, I saw some where they put speed calming in cross walks.
I am also wondering if any of the transportation commission saw the channel 27 report about how dangerous it is for the children and the crossing guards.

Please keep me informed, I will be at the next meeting.

Thank you,

Barbara Stamm
608-577-1168
Sent from my iPad

On Feb 3, 2020, at 10:08 AM, Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:
Barbara,

The Transportation Commission did NOT approve speed humps on Prairie Rd at the 1/22/20 meeting. Their reason for this, was the relatively low speed data—only 1% of traffic over the “Posted Speed Limit + 5”. From my understanding, the plan moving forward is to further analyze the speed study, rather than only using the “posted speed limit +5” metric and possibly propose an alternative to speed humps. We have not yet determined which future meeting we will discuss this. However, we will need to do this soon (February or March), in order to maintain our contract bidding schedule for the work.

I will let you know when that meeting date is scheduled.

Thanks,

Tom Mohr, P.E.
Traffic Engineering
City of Madison
(608) 267-8725

From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Hi Tom,

I wanted to find out how the meeting went I couldn't attend that night, I hope it went well and that our kids will be safer.

Thanks,

Barbara Stamm
Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2020, at 12:32 PM, Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:
Barbara,

The meeting is open to the public. Members of the public are allowed three minutes to speak to the commission on items. I do not anticipate any opposition to this project, but you are more than welcome to come and speak or just watch.

Thanks,

Tom

From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Thanks Tom,

Is that meeting something the public should attend?

The map you forwarded looks good. Thank you for following up with the information.

Barbara Stamm

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 15, 2020, at 9:48 AM, Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Barbara and Alder Albouras,

I just want to inform you that the attached speed hump locations will be proposed for approval at the Transportation Commission meeting next week, Wednesday, January 22 at 5pm in Room 215 of the Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. If approved at that meeting, we will survey the residents for their approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks,

Tom Mohr, P.E.

Traffic Engineering

City of Madison

(608) 267-8725

From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, December 13, 2019 3:56 PM

To: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Dear Tom,

Thank you for keeping us up to date.

Barbara Stamm

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 13, 2019, at 2:09 PM, Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Alder Albouras and Barb,

I just wanted to update you that we have the speed data (from a previous speed study completed this year), ranked the street, and it did rank high enough for traffic calming. We will continue to move forward in our process.

Thank you,

Tom Mohr, P.E.

Traffic Engineering

City of Madison

(608) 267-8725

From: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 10:39 AM
To: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>; Tao, Yang <YTao@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Prairie Road
Mr. Mohr

I hope this note finds you well and having a good start to the week. Thank you very much for the prompt response.

I agree, I hope that we can gather the needed data by this winter as well. Your efforts in getting this moved along are greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can do in the interim to assist the process. Thank you.

Regards,

Alder Albouras
Madison Common Council-District 20
Email: district20@cityofmadison.com
Phone: 608-358-8387

On Dec 9, 2019, at 8:59 AM, Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Alder Albouras and Barb,

Thank you for getting the ball rolling on this issue! I will try to cover everything regarding the traffic situation along Prairie Rd at Huegel Elementary in this email.

We understand that speed is still an issue on Prairie Rd at the school. The nature of the street leads to higher speeds, which include:

- Downhill slope from Putnam Rd to Pilgrim/Monticello
- Straight street geometry
- Relatively wide street—44'
- Open field of vision on the east side of the street—no trees, driveways, or buildings close to the roadway
- Regular commuters who are familiar with the street

All of these factors naturally lead to relatively high driver speeds. While the radar speed feedback board that was installed for northbound drivers just north of Piedmont is a helpful tool, it does lose effectiveness as drivers become familiar. We painted crosswalks, bike lane lines, and parking lane lines in 2017. While this also is helpful, the effect on speeds along a straight stretch of roadway like this is minimal.

Regarding possible additional Stop signs at Piedmont Rd--we do not recommend installing an all-way stop for a few reasons. Stop signs are an important traffic control device, and when used at the right location, under the right conditions, are a valuable and effective device. At the same time, when used incorrectly their use can create problems and worsen conditions and safety. Stop signs are used to assign the right-of-way when there is a crash problem or where traffic volumes are so high that people cannot find a safe gap in traffic. However, stop signs are often requested with the goal of reducing traffic speed and/or for improving safety for pedestrians. It is logical that if you make someone stop then the speeds overall will decrease. While speeds near the intersection are reduced, they are not affected along the greater length of the street and in some instances drivers, who do slow or stop, try to make up for the lost time and increase travel speed away from the intersection. Studies have found at locations with unwarranted Stops, motorist compliance can be poor. When drivers start rolling through

an intersection safety is reduced. It is also a concern for children who believe adults obey the law and follow the rules, and when they enter a street believing approaching traffic will stop and it does not, the end result can be the very thing the neighborhood is concerned about--a crash involving a child.

For this case, the most effective way to permanently reduce speeds is with speed humps on Prairie Road. There are no bus routes on this stretch and the Fire Department is okay with speed humps here. Prairie Road does have relatively high traffic volume for speed humps (close to 5,000 veh/day), so we do need to consider traffic diversion. Some thru traffic may divert to Sara Rd, but if we limit the number of speed humps, I do not anticipate major traffic diversion. For these reasons, I will move forward with the traffic calming process by ordering a speed study. Hopefully, our crews are able to collect that data yet this winter (snow or very low temperatures do not allow our hose-counters to work). If we can get the data this winter, here are the remaining steps to get speed humps installed:

1. City ranks the street compared to all other streets in the city that are being considered for traffic calming.
2. Top ranking streets are chosen by Traffic Engineering staff for next year's contract.
3. Projects are approved by the Transportation Commission, Board of Public Works, and Common Council.
4. City TE surveys residents on the street for final approval.
5. Projects that have at least a 60% approval of surveys returned by residents will be constructed the next summer/fall .

So the number one goal for now, is for us (TE) to get the speed data on the street. I will let you know the results of that, when it comes in.

I will also send this information to the Principal at Huegel Elementary, so school staff can respond to parents with the most up-to-date information.

Thanks,

Tom Mohr, P.E.
Traffic Engineering
City of Madison
(608) 267-8725

From: Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2019 5:37 PM

To: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>

Cc: Mohr, Thomas <TMohr@cityofmadison.com>; Tao, Yang <YTao@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Hello Ms. Stamm:

I hope this note finds you well and having a good weekend. Thank you very much for updating me that Tom Mohr from Traffic Engineering has reached out and provided some further insight.

Tom: thank you for helping. What are the next steps to get this traffic project moving forward as soon as possible? Please advise. Thank you.

Regards,

Alder Christian Albouras

Madison Common Council | 20th Aldermanic District

Email: District20@cityofmadison.com

Phone: 608-358-8387

Subscribe to my blog at: www.cityofmadison.com/council/district20/blog

From: Barbara Stamm <bstamm53@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 9:50 AM

To: Albouras, Christian

Subject: Re: Prairie Road

Hi Christian,

I spoke with Tom Moore at Traffic and Engineering yesterday. It sounds like many people have looked into slowing traffic down on Prairie Road by Heugel school so Tom feels that there is a probability of getting speed bumps.

After talking with one of the resource teachers Ms. K.M. She suggested that we have two speed bumps one up just south of Piedmont Road and one closer to the crosswalk guard just north of Piedmont Road.

Thank you for helping with the safety of our future generation!!!

Barbara Stamm

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 26, 2019, at 8:43 PM, Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello:

I hope this message finds you well and having a good holiday season. Thank you very much for speaking with me today. Per our discussion, I am sending this email to keep the traffic safety issues on Prairie Road near the elementary school top of mind. Thank you.

Regards,

Alder Albouras

Madison Common Council-District 20

Email: district20@cityofmadison.com

Phone: 608-358-8387



Angie Montpas, PhD

Principal, Huegel Elementary School

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