

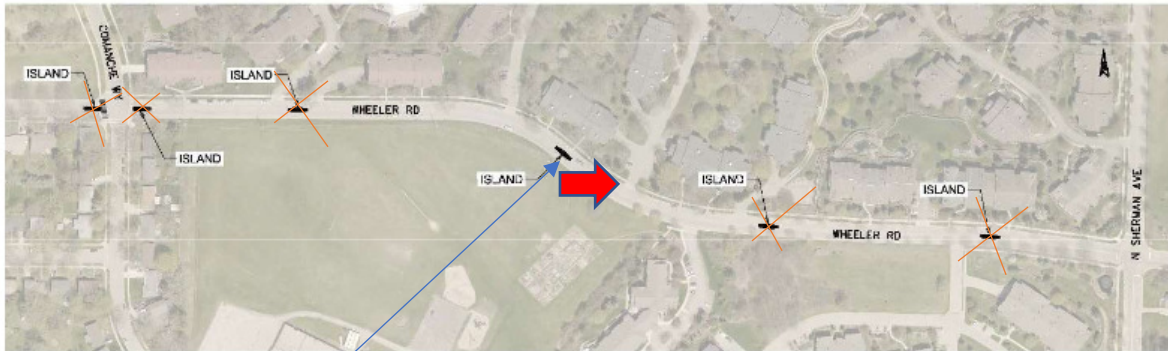
To: Members of the Transportation Commission
From: Alison Lindsay Mares
Date: May 12, 2021
Re: Traffic Calming—Sherman Ave to Comanche Way on Wheeler Road, Legistar #64985

I write to suggest an alternative solution to the City’s Engineering Department proposal for traffic calming measures on Wheeler Road between Sherman Ave and Comanche Way, which has been narrowly rejected by residents (59.3%). The current proposal is for four traffic “islands” along Wheeler Road and traffic “dividers” at Wheeler and Comanche Way:



Residents narrowly rejected this proposal largely because installing the islands would have removed a significant amount of on-street parking space and because the number of islands on this half-mile stretch of road was overkill.

In conjunction with my next suggestion, I would propose that just one island be installed on Wheeler Road, somewhere so that elderly/visitors from Wickshire Senior Living and gardeners in the community gardens can cross to sidewalks on the northside of Wheeler Road (bearing in mind that there is a nasty hill on Wheeler at Wickshire).

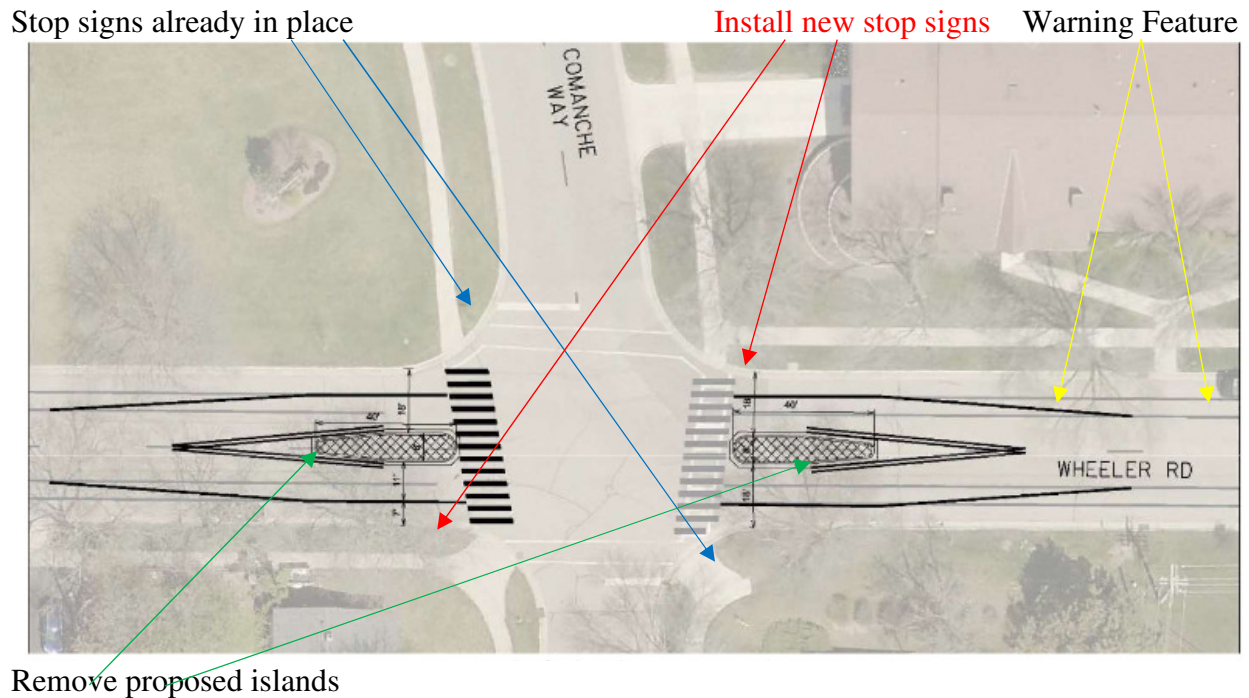


Move this island eastward?

My second suggestion is that the intersection at Wheeler Road and Comanche Way be turned into a four-way stop sign. At present, drivers going west on Wheeler have passed me at great speed as I’ve been turning right onto Comanche Way. Pedestrians using the crosswalk at this point are invisible and simply would not survive a 40-50 mph impact.

There are additional concerns:

- Children cross Wheeler Road from Comanche Way to get to Gompers and Black Hawk schools. Requiring all traffic to stop at Wheeler and Comanche will give our kids—and our crossing guard—a better chance of being safe, especially as this area of town is being developed and more families are moving in.
- In the spring and summer, the rising sun is blinding as a driver tries to navigate on to Wheeler from Comanche Way going east. It is nearly impossible to see traffic driving west on Wheeler Road. If traffic had to stop, drivers from Comanche Way would not be risking life and auto.
- Wildlife in this area is oblivious to the rules of the road and often are strolling across the road from the condos to the school playground or are wandering around on the road deciding where the next snack might be. We've lost one Sandhill Crane to a speeding car, please don't let there be more.



I understand that a four-way stop has some legal requirements, but I would suggest that the time has come to make this a safer intersection before we start counting fatalities. I would also request that the Engineering Department install some flashing signs or rumble strips (or other attention-getting devices) to alert drivers to this four-way stop.

And finally, in the winter, this intersection needs serious attention from the Streets Department to avoid snow and ice buildup; a four-way stop should slow traffic, but this intersection is poorly-maintained in the winter and slide-bys coming downhill are well documented.

I believe these two changes to Wheeler Road will achieve the desired result of slowing traffic between Sherman Ave and Comanche Way. Thank you for considering my suggestions.