

TRAFFIC ROUTING CHANGES UPDATE

A planned system of traffic signals intended to slow motorists in the Johnson/Gorham corridor was nearly lost in a flurry of amendments to the city budget last week. The amendment, sponsored by 18th Dist Ald. Michael Ley, would have eliminated funds for the installation of traffic lights at three intersections along E. Johnson and three along E. Gorham.

After Dept. of Transportation Director Warren Somerfeld explained the proposed changes, the City Council split their vote (11-11) on the measure. Mayor Soglin cast the tie-breaking vote which defeated the amendment, thereby assuring the installation of the signals in 1977.

The traffic signals will augment traffic routing changes recommended by the Neighborhood Association, and subsequently implemented by the City Council, intended to reduce the speed and volume of traffic through the Tenney/Lapham neighborhood. The plan, in effect for a six-month test period, will be evaluated some time next Spring.

When asked this week about public reaction to the changes, City Traffic Engineer Floyd Jones said, "It hasn't been too good from what I heard at this end." All of the correspondence received to date has been negative, generally citing the inconvenience caused motorists travelling in the area.

While hard figures are not available on traffic volume along the Johnson/Gorham corridor, numerous area residents have noticed a marked reduction in traffic. However, the latest set of speed tests indicate that traffic speed in the 1000 block of E. Gorham has recently increased slightly--notwithstanding the installation of a stop sign at the end of the block.

There have been threats of petition drives to eliminate the traffic routing changes but nothing has yet materialized. If we expect these changes to be implemented permanently, we're going to have to do more than just talk of their merits among ourselves--the traffic engineering people and the City Council should hear about them.

Don't just talk... write to:

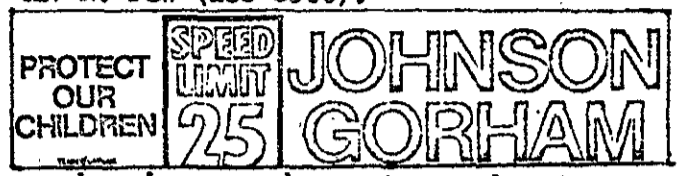
Warren Somerfeld
Director, Dept. of Transportation
210 Monona Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

or, at the same address:

Floyd Jones, City Traffic Engineer

....if motorists aren't stopping at the newly-posted stop signs or if they don't give pedestrians time to cross the street at these locations, contact Lt. Roberts, of Traffic Information and Investigation of Services, at the Madison Police Dept, 266-4622.

....and if you want those impatient motorists who tailgate you all the way down Johnson and Gorham to know why you're only driving 25 mph, be sure to pick up a bumper sticker from David Strandberg, 417 N. Few (255-3966).



...here's your chance to speak out on these traffic routing changes--the Dane County Regional Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on transportation issues at:

Madison Public Library
201 West Mifflin
Monday, December 6th, at 7:30 pm

(if you'll need a ride to the meeting, please call Pam or Stan Wrzeski this weekend at 255-1638)

HOME REPAIR AND REHABILITATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

This is the first of a two-part series on neighborhood housing. While the following article looks at owner performed maintenance and rehabilitation programs, the next issue will examine housing maintenance problems from a renter's perspective.

Numerous programs are available for those property owners who wish to maintain their homes in safe, livable condition. The following is a brief description of some of these programs. For further information on these and other programs, contact Housing Chairperson Karen Frankel 251-4148.

If you want to remedy those building code violations...

the Housing Rehabilitation Services Program (266-4787) can make two to twenty year loans to homeowners at 6.5% interest. The work is done by private contractors under the supervision of the City of Madison.

Are you a low-income owner-occupant whose home needs to be winterized?

Call the Community Action Commission (251-5423). They install insulation, caulking, storm windows, inspect your furnace or repair doors and roofs. They can supply at no cost up to \$350 worth of materials.

HOUSING REPAIR AND REHABILITATION

If you are a moderate-income homeowner and need assistance for minor home repairs...

the Dane County Housing Development Corp. (266-4415) can provide free labor and arrange low interest loans for materials.

Older people with minor home repairs should contact Project HOME (257-4624). They will locate volunteers for painting, yard work, changing storm windows or other small tasks. Unless you have a very low income, you must provide your own materials.

Dane County Social Services (249-5351) runs a Home Repair Program for AFDC recipients. They will take a second mortgage of up to \$1000, with no interest. They also have a program for SSI recipients.

If you require design services...

Design Coalition (241-2104) furnishes designs for rehabilitation, landscaping and/or environmental concerns to anyone in the community on a sliding fee scale.

Are you a moderate-income family thinking of buying a home and rehabilitating it?

Most of the Tenney/Lapham neighborhood is a target area for the Home Buyers' Assistance Program (266-4415). Through this program, the City can supervise the bidding and rehabilitation work. They can also loan up to 25% of the total cost if you can put up 5% and get a conventional loan for the remainder. Call the program office to find out the eligibility requirements.

ALTERNATE PARADE OF HOMES

COMING TO OUR AREA

Historic Madison will probably sponsor this Spring's Alternate Parade of Homes in the Tenney/Lapham and Marquette neighborhoods.

The Alternate Parade, which was held in our neighborhood two years ago, stresses the advantages of central city living and the beauty of older homes.

If you know of a home with a distinct architectural style (including your own!) whose owner might allow it to be shown, forward his/her name and address to Judy Jones, 411 Sidney (or call her in the evening at 257-1218).

If you'd like to join the Tenney/Lapham Neighborhood Association or simply want to help defer the cost of printing organizational materials, please forward a dollar (50¢ for senior citizens) to Mary Legried, 1230 Dayton Street, Madison, 53703 and fill in below

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ AREA OF INTEREST: _____

POLICE-CITIZENS TALK ABOUT

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Members of several community groups met recently with Madison Police Chief David Couper as part of an effort to protect pedestrians through better enforcement of traffic laws. The meeting, organized by People United for Responsible Energy (PURE) included representatives of the Tenney/Lapham, Atwood, 13th District Neighborhood Associations, and the South and East Side Coalitions for the Elderly.

Citizen concern was expressed over the increased number of pedestrian casualties in Madison since 1975 (only 4 citations have been issued during the past year for violations of the pedestrians right-of-way). Chief Couper argued that his limited staff resources have prohibited a major traffic enforcement effort, but agreed that pedestrian safety is a priority issue. He said he would work further with community groups and possibly develop a public education program directed towards traffic safety.

The forum was the first in a series of citizen initiated efforts to achieve short-term pedestrian safety goals locally and long-term goals aimed at Wisconsin state government's role in the issue.

Your participation in this joint citizens-city hall endeavor is welcomed. Contact Doris Fischer (251-6458) for information.

NOTES :

-Contrary to some rumors which have been circulating, there will be no express bus service to Hill Farms this winter.

-Newly elected neighborhood council members are:

- Carol Huber, president (255-2833)
- David Strandberg, vice pres./treasurer (255-3966)
- Judy Jones, secretary (257-1218)

area representatives:

- Doris Fischer, south of Johnson (251-6458)
- Donna Jackson, north of Johnson (255-7368)
- Lynn & Bill Whitford, west of Christ Preby. (256-6943)

committee chairpersons:

- Karen Frankel, housing (251-4148)
- Richard Whitnoble, transportation (256-3700)
- Mary Legried, membership (255-4942)
- Pam & Stan Wrzeski, publicity (255-1638)