



Memorandum

DATE: October 29, 2009

TO: Board of Public Works

FROM: Mark Radtke, Director of Public Works *MR*

RE: Request to Install Crosswalk on Nassau Street at Nicolet Elementary School

Attached is a request from the Principal of Nicolet School requesting a crosswalk be installed across Nassau Street connecting the playground to the school parking lot. The request is being made as a safety concern and to reflect the actual walking pattern of the students/pedestrians.

Regarding mid block pedestrian crossings, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) provides for their use at appropriate locations and with the proper warning signs and parking conditions. In this case, because the requested crosswalk is located less than 100 feet from the intersection with Ahnaip Street and the proposed crosswalk also would be immediately adjacent to the driveways for the playground and the school parking lot, I do not think this is an appropriate, safe location for the crosswalk. Also, school bus parking and on street parking exists along the east side of Nassau Street which may impair adequate visibility for the motorists approaching the crosswalk.

Due to the proximity to the Ahnaip Street intersection, and because non intersection pedestrian crossings are generally unexpected by motorists, I think installing a crosswalk at the requested location may actually increase the safety hazard of the crossing. Motorists turning left from Ahnaip Street onto Nassau Street may not have sufficient visibility to the crosswalk and also, because of the shallow angle of that turning movement, may be traveling at speeds that are higher than what could be deemed safe in this situation.

Because of these safety concerns, I recommend the Board deny the request for a crosswalk at this location. If the crosswalk were authorized, I estimate the cost of the necessary curb replacement, walk ramp installation, signs and pavement marking to be \$1,050.

Attachments

Request to Install Crosswalk on Nassau Street at Nicolet Elementary School

AHNAIP STREET

NASSAU STREET

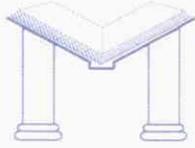
PROPOSED
CROSSWALK



North



SCALE 1"=30'



Menasha Joint School District

Nicolet Elementary School

449 Ahnaip Street
Menasha, WI 54952
Ph: (920) 967-1710
www.mjsd.k12.wi.us

10/26/2009

Mark Radtke
City of Menasha
140 Main Street
Menasha, WI 54952

Dear Mark:

Please consider this as a formal request to make a crosswalk on Nassau Street that connects the playground at Nicolet School to the Nicolet School parking lot across the street from the playground.

This is my second year as principal and I am amazed that we have not had an accident as of yet. The crosswalk that is supposed to be used at the corner of Ahnaip and Nassau is rarely used because it does not meet the needs of people whose purpose is to be at the school. The crosswalk is used only by students who walk home south on Ahnaip.

Most of our students are picked up at the end of the day. At the end of the school day (3:15) parents are parked in the parking lot waiting for children and cars are lined up about 15 deep along Nassau Street. Children cross the street from the playground—and there is no crosswalk. Even though I have two supervisors outside at the end of the day, parents call their children to cross the street illegally. Supervision has not stopped the students crossing the street mid-block.

I believe crosswalks should reflect the natural walking pattern of pedestrians. In this case, the crosswalk available to the students at Nicolet does not work. I have watched to see who uses the crosswalk when they park in the parking lot—virtually no one uses the crosswalk. Even police and fire department personnel cross in the middle of the street to get to Nicolet School.

The location of the new crosswalk would be 100 feet from the northeast corner of the crosswalk and 53 feet from the southwest corner of the same crosswalk. (Please recall that Ahnaip and the cross streets are angled.)

Thank you for your consideration regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Susan Werley
Principal