



Memorandum

DATE: May 12, 2011

TO: Board of Public Works

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

RE: Request to Conduct Engineering Study to Revise Channelized Lane Designations at the Washington Street/Nicolet Boulevard Intersection (Menasha Police Department)

We have received a request from Menasha Police Department Officer Schrampfer to consider changing the directional lane markings for traffic southbound on Washington Street approaching Nicolet Boulevard. Currently, southbound traffic in the innermost lane is required to turn left onto either Nicolet Boulevard or First Street. The request is seeking removal of that requirement to turn left, thus allowing traffic to continue straight onto Commercial Street from the left lane on Washington Street.

I am recommending the Board of Public Works direct the Engineering Department to conduct an engineering study for this request and report back to the Board with the findings and recommendation.

Mark Radtke

From: Martin R. Schrampfer
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:20 AM
To: Mark Radtke
Cc: Robert Stanke
Subject: Turn lanes, Washington@Nicolet
Attachments: Nicolet_Washington_alt2.JPG; Nicolet_Washington_Current.JPG;
Nicolet_Washington_Proposed.JPG

Dear Director Radtke:

I am contacting you to suggest consideration be given to changing the directional markings and requirements for vehicular traffic going southbound on Washington St at the intersection of Nicolet Blvd/Sanford Sts. Currently traffic heading south in the outside lane is allowed to go straight or turn right onto Sanford St. Traffic heading south in the inside lane is required to turn left onto either First St or Nicolet Blvd. it is my belief that this was done originally due to parking on N. Commercial St. which narrowed the southbound side to one lane. That parking has been long removed and Commercial St southbound is now 2 lanes for over a mile into Neenah.

Other considerations:

- A significant percentage of traffic disregards the left turn designation and goes straight anyway.
- The overhead sign is not readily visible until traffic rounds a curve in the road, by that time they are focusing on the upcoming complicated intersection.
- When I have been able to stop violators they are almost always from out of town and were confused about the lanes.
- I have tried many times to enforce the left turn regulations however there is no area to clearly observe the violation AND safely pull out and stop the violators.
- There is a left turn arrow that comes on initially along with the green light for southbound so traffic going straight or left could proceed immediately.
- The vast majority of traffic southbound goes straight and would benefit from an additional straight lane.
- When the 441 bridge is closed due to inclement weather or traffic incident southbound traffic on Washington St. can back up past River St. This compounds problems when traffic in the left lane passes two blocks of traffic then discovers they are in a left turn only lane.
- Making this change would allow for the removal of the overhead sign reducing future costs.

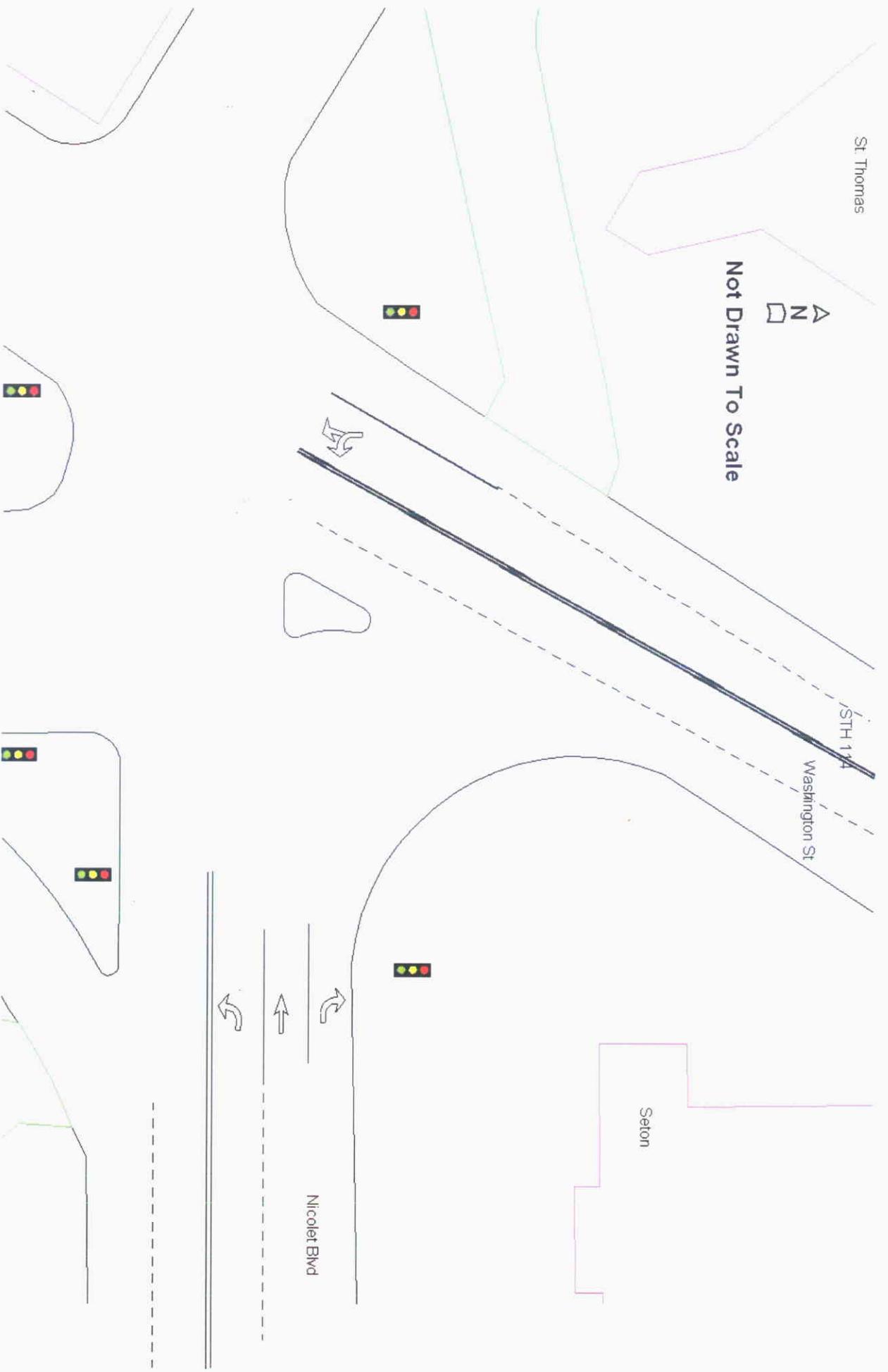
I recently discussed this with a citizen who is a lifelong resident of Doty Island and he supported it and brought up the possibility of doing the same thing for Traffic westbound on Nicolet Blvd as well. Inside lane turning left onto First St or onto the inside lane of Commercial St and the center lane turning onto the outside lane of Commercial or onto Sanford St. I advised I would pass this along for consideration but that I was not sure if this would work with traffic making multilane turning maneuvers.

Attached are 3 images, one showing the approximate current lane setup, one being the proposed setup of both southbound lanes being able to go straight and the third image being the alternate one where 2 lanes of Nicolet can proceed onto Commercial as well.

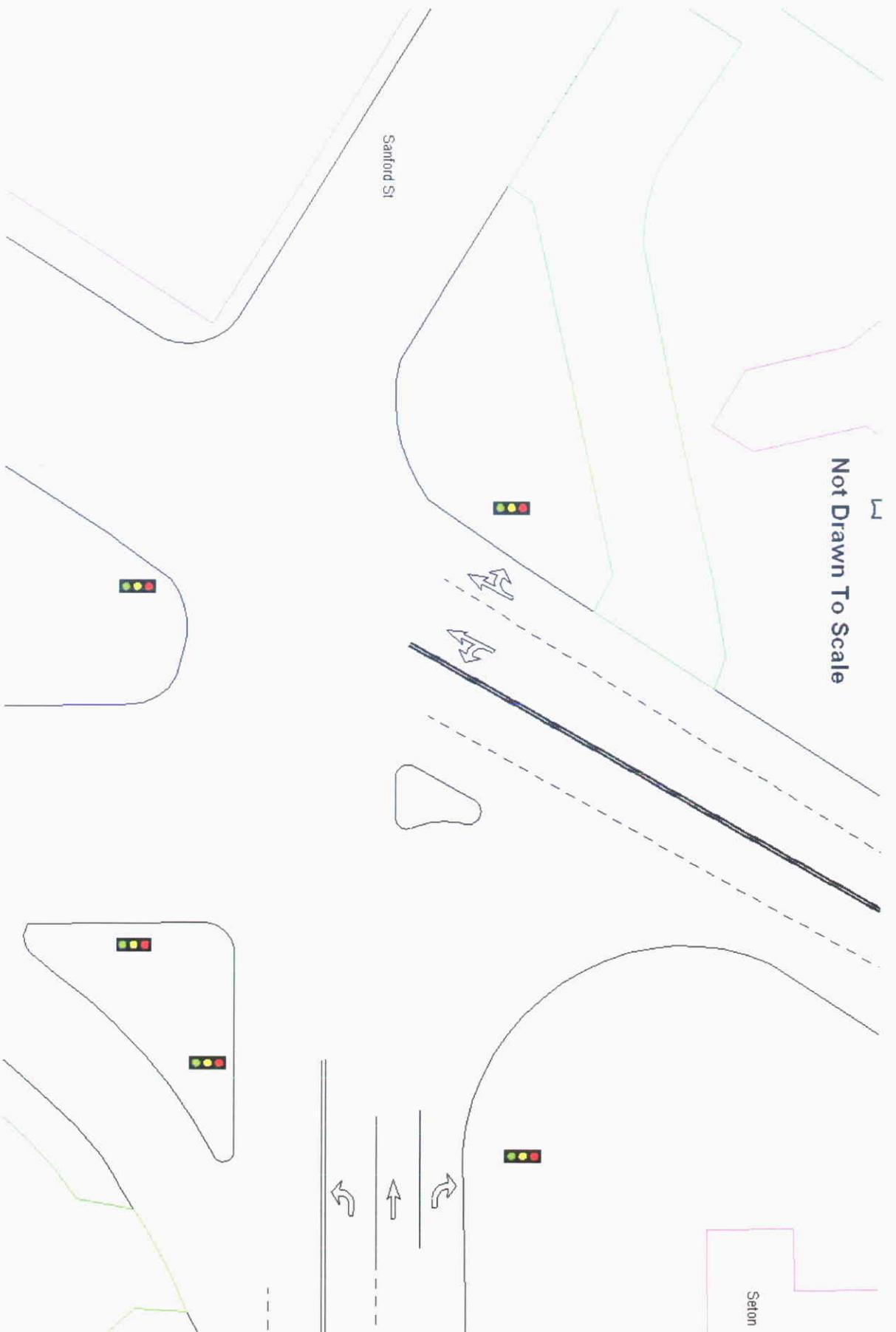
I look forward to hearing your engineering prospective on this, if there is anything I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me and thank you for your consideration.

OIC Martin Schrampfer #E64
City of Menasha Police Department
430 First St

CURRENT LANE DESIGNATIONS



PROPOSED LANE DESIGNATIONS (WASHINGTON STREET)



PROPOSED LANE DESIGNATIONS
(NICOLET BLVD.)

