



September 17, 2015

Board of Public Works
City of Menasha
Menasha, WI 54952

RE: Revise Channelized Lane Designations at the Washington Street/Nicolet Boulevard Intersection

Members of the Board:

In March of 2011 the Engineering Department was asked to look into the feasibility of 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. At that time the City of Menasha approached the City of Neenah to gather their information and input as to the possible change. The traffic signals that are operating at the intersection are owned and maintained by the City of Neenah. Neenah was planning to do traffic counts and they were going to look at the entire Commercial Street corridor when they did Synchro modeling. They were going to utilize their accident report information and accident reports that we supplied to better respond to our request. The City of Neenah has completed installation and programming of the new microwave detection at the signalized intersection. In recent discussions with Neenah Traffic Engineer, James Merten, he is confident that with the new detection, the proposed change could provide smooth traffic flow in the southbound direction. James did mention that if they observe any congestion issues with left turning traffic, they can look to adjust some of the detection zones and phase timing to better accommodate the new traffic patterns.

On-site observations show that traffic in the innermost lane often times does not realize that the respective southbound lane is a left-turn only lane and try to change to the through traffic lane close to the intersection. The existing lane delineation signs on an existing sign bridge are after the bend in the road just north of the intersection and drivers are often not anticipating the left turn only movement from the innermost lane.

Please see attached the most recent accident history that we have for the Menasha area of the intersection. The majority of the accidents are rear end accidents for the southbound traffic.

In reviewing the intersection history, accident discussions/history, on-site lane delineation limitations and with input and design opinions from the City of Neenah, the Department feels that this southbound traffic movement would be better served by having the southbound innermost lane be designated as left turn and through traffic movements and the outside lane continue to be the right turn and through movement.

Sincerely,

Tim J. Montour
Engineering Supervisor

Attachments

C: Street file

P:\PUBLICWORKS\PUBLICWORKS\Tim\traffic_studies\Traffic Study(Washington, Nicolet, Commercial 9_16_2015).doc

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

COLLISION DIAGRAM

Key Number = _____

MUNICIPALITY: Menasha COUNTY: Winnebago
 INTERSECTION: Nicolet Blvd.
 PERIOD: 0 YEARS 0 MONTHS FROM _____ TO _____

FILE: nicolet_washingt
 CASE # : _____
 BY: cr DATE: 9/15/2015



10
2 8 9

SYMBOLS

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| | MOVING VEHICLE | P | PEDESTRIAN |
| | TURNING VEHICLE | B | BICYCLIST |
| | BACKING VEHICLE | A | ANIMAL |
| | PARKED VEHICLE | | FIXED OBJECT |
| | RECORD NUMBER | | Fatal |

MANNER OF COLLISION

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|-------------|
| | REAR END | | HEAD ON |
| | LEFT TURN | | RIGHT TURN |
| | LEFT TURN | | RIGHT TURN |
| | OVERTAKE | | RIGHT ANGLE |
| | OUT OF CONTROL | | SIDE SWIPE |

DETAILS OF ACCIDENT HISTORY

PERIOD STUDIED: FROM: _____ TO: _____ 0 MONTHS	ROUTE NUMBER/STREET NAME: Nicolet Blvd. LOCATION: at Washington St. MUNICIPALITY: Menasha COUNTY: Winnebago REFERENCE MARKERS / NODES:	CASE No. _____ FILE: nicoleet washingt BY: cr DATE: 9/15/2015
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No.	DATE	TIME	# VEHICLES	SEVERITY	LIGHT COND	ROAD CHAR	SURFACE	WEATHER	CONTRIB. FACTORS	ACC. TYPE	ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION	KEY #
1	11/19/1995	14:36		INJ			1	2		REN		
2	3/5/1997	14:01		PDO			1	1		OTH		
3	9/8/1998	13:04		PDO			1	1		REN		
4	5/6/2000	16:01		INJ			1	1		REN		
5	3/26/2001	14:35		PDO			1	2		RAN		
6	4/6/2001	12:02		INJ			1	2		REN		
7	10/26/2001	9:33		PDO			1	2		OVTK		
10	11/30/2001	6:49	2	INJ	4	1	2	3	7	Rang	unit 1 turning left, did so right in front of oncoming unit 2	
8	1/6/2002	12:57	2	N/R	1	1			4	Rend	unit 2 was stopped in traffic when unit 1 rear ended it	
9	1/25/2003	13:48	2	N/R	1	1			3	Back	unit 1 tried to back into center lane, struck unit 2	
11	5/20/2003	9:20	2	INJ	1	1	1	1	17	Rang	unit 2 ran a red light and collided with northbound unit 1	
12	7/28/2003	12:49	2	PDO	1	1	1	1	4 9	Rend	unit 2 was slowing to make turn when unit 1 rear ended it	
13	11/28/2003	9:05	2	PDO	1	1	4	4	66 19	Rend	unit 2 stopped at red light when unit 1 rear ended it	
14	5/14/2004	12:44	2	PDO	1	1	2	3	4	Rend	unit 2 was stopped at red light when unit 1 rear ended it	
15	4/5/2006	23:33	1	INJ	4	1	1	1	4 14	Blke	bicycle 1 struck parked veh. 2	
16	10/5/2006	15:50	2	N/R	1	1	0	0	4	Rend	unit 1-sb stopped at red light-rear ended by unit 2-sb	
17	5/29/2010	19:19	2	N/R	1	1	1	1	9	Rend	veh 1 rear ended motorcycle 2 after it proceeded then stopped	
18	8/26/2013	9:48	2	INJ	1	4	2	3	14 13	Blke	bicycle2 went against traffic, hit veh1 which had a green light	

ACCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

ROUTE: *Nicolet Blvd.*

LOCATION: *at Washington St.*

MUNICIPALITY: *Menasha*

COUNTY: *Winnebago*

TIME PERIOD COVERED: -

REFERENCE MARKERS / NODES -

REMARKS: *All Accidents*

DATE: *9/15/2015*

TIME OF DAY	# ACC	%	DIRECTION	# ACC	%	DIRECTION	# ACC	%
6 AM - 10 AM	5	27.8%	North	5	15.6%	Northeast	0	0.0%
10 AM - 4 PM	10	55.6%	South	14	43.8%	Northwest	0	0.0%
4 PM - 7 PM	1	5.6%	East	0	0.0%	Southeast	1	3.1%
7 PM - 12 AM	2	11.1%	West	12	37.5%	Southwest	0	0.0%
12 AM - 6 AM	0	0.0%	Total	32		Unspecified	0	0.0%
Unspecified	0	0.0%						
Total	18							

WEATHER	# ACC	%	ACCIDENT TYPE	# ACC	%	ACCIDENT TYPE	# ACC	%
Clear	7	38.9%	Rear End	10	55.6%	Pedestrian	0	0.0%
Cloudy	4	22.2%	Overtake	1	5.6%	Bicycle	2	11.1%
Rain	3	16.7%	Right Angle	3	16.7%	Parked Vehicle	0	0.0%
Snow	1	5.6%	Left Turn	0	0.0%	Backing	1	5.6%
Sleet/Hail/Freezing Rain	0	0.0%	Right Turn	0	0.0%	Run Off The Road	0	0.0%
Fog/Smog/Smoke	0	0.0%	Fixed Object	0	0.0%	Animal	0	0.0%
Unspecified	3	16.7%	Head On	0	0.0%	Other	1	5.6%
			Sideswipe	0	0.0%	Unspecified	0	0.0%
Total	18		Total	18				

SURFACE	# ACC	%	ACCIDENT SEVERITY	# ACC	%
Dry	11	61.1%	Fatal	0	0.0%
Wet	3	16.7%	Injury	7	38.9%
Mud/Slush	0	0.0%	Property Damage	7	38.9%
Snow/Ice	1	5.6%	Non-Reportable	4	22.2%
Unspecified	3	16.7%	Total	18	
Total	18				

TIME OF YEAR	# ACC	%	TYPE OF VEHICLE	# ACC	%
Winter (Dec-Feb)	2	11.1%	Passenger Cars	21	100.0%
Spring (Mar-May)	8	44.4%	Commercial Vehicles	0	0.0%
Summer (Jun-Aug)	2	11.1%	Total	21	
Fall (Sep-Nov)	6	33.3%			
Total	18				

DAY OF WEEK	# ACC	%	LIGHT CONDITION	# ACC	%
Sunday	3	16.7%	Daylight	9	50.0%
Monday	2	11.1%	Dawn/Dusk	0	0.0%
Tuesday	2	11.1%	Night	2	11.1%
Wednesday	2	11.1%	Unspecified	7	38.9%
Thursday	1	5.6%	Total	18	
Friday	4	22.2%			
Saturday	4	22.2%			
Total	18				

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT SEVERITY BY YEAR:

	0
Fatal Accidents	0
Injury Accidents	0
Property Damage Accidents	0
Non-Reportable Accidents	0
Total Accidents	0

DETAILS OF ACCIDENT HISTORY

PERIOD STUDIED: FROM: _____ TO: _____ 0 MONTHS		ROUTE NUMBER/STREET NAME: <u>Sanford St.</u>		CASE No. _____ FILE: <u>sanford_washingt</u>	
		LOCATION: <u>at Washington St.</u>		BY: <u>cr</u>	
		MUNICIPALITY: <u>Menasha</u> COUNTY: <u>Winnebago</u>		DATE: <u>9/15/2015</u>	
		REFERENCE MARKERS / NODES: _____			
No.	DATE	TIME	CONTRIB. FACTORS	ACC. TYPE	KEY #
1	2/7/2003	5:42	19 66	Rend	
unit 1 was stopped at red light when unit 2 rear ended it					

North



SCALE: 1" = 50'±

WASHINGTON ST.

EXISTING TRAFFIC LANE DELINEATION

NICOLET BLVD.

SANFORD ST.

COMMERCIAL ST.

FIRST ST.

