

# **SASY Transportation Committee Meeting**

July 23, 2013  
Meeting Notes

Present: Larry Jensen, Tim Wong, Donna Magdalena  
Notetaker: Donna Magdalena

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Committee meeting notes from June 25, 2013 committee meeting were approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Since the Winnebago Atwood Corridor Planning Committee comprises a section of the Transportation Committee's mission, we spent this meeting evaluating and discussing what the Transportation Committee's most effective usefulness might now be for the SASY community and the future direction we might take as a committee. Then we chose an area to focus and take action on.

## **Brainstorm**

Brainstormed ideas for our committee to work on included:

- (1) Collect problematic transportation issues that neighbors raise and be a conduit to help them remedy these. Possible ways to do this:
  - Obtain and list a Transportation Committee email address on the SASYNA.org Transportation Committee webpage or have a form on that webpage that neighbors can fill out, listing the transportation or traffic issue they see as problematic. We would collect these to see where issues continually arise and also contact the neighbors and help facilitate a resolution. A number of committee members will have access to the email address and provide facilitation and/or bring it to committee.
  - Print a list of action steps neighbors can take to resolve or address the issues they see as problematic and encourage them to bring it to our committee if necessary. This list would exist on our committee's SASY webpage.
- (2) Address specific traffic issues currently being raised, i.e. child that was hit near Hawthorne Park last month or complaints from Winnebago residents on the SASY facebook page about speeding on Winnebago.
- (3) Work to increase rain infiltration in our neighborhood, and perhaps to advocate for changing city policy so rain gardens are the default when terraces are torn up by the city.
- (4) Improve road designs to reduce ongoing problems. Some suggestions:
  - The problem of drivers not obeying red traffic signal at Riverside and increasing

their speed when driving eastbound on Williamson while approaching the river.  
Possible solution: create curves in Winnebago causing drivers to make a right hand turn when entering Eastwood Drive.

- Speeding on Eastwood Drive. Possible solution: Change the end of Eastwood, between Division and Dunning, so drivers need to make a right hand turn to continue eastbound on Atwood.
- Speeding on interior residential streets. Possible solution: close some interior intersections to cars but keep ped and bike access open.
- Reduce speed limit on neighborhood residential streets to 20 mph.

(5) Advocate for bike lanes to be installed now on Atwood Avenue between Lakeland and Cottage Grove Road, due to increased bike traffic on the sidewalk there. There are new bike lanes on Monona Drive from Cottage Grove Road to its southern end near the beltline. Bicyclists from our neighborhood are currently clogging the sidewalk from Lakeland to Cottage Grove Road because bike lanes won't be installed in that section until at least 2017 or later. Removing one eastbound auto lane would provide the room needed for bike lanes on each side of the road in that area, and slow speeding traffic. There is currently only one eastbound auto lane for the four blocks between Fair Oaks and Oakridge. We are proposing to keep it at one lane for six more blocks—until Cottage Grove Road.

(6) Advocate for city to allow the Idaho Law for bicyclists—so bicyclists can treat stop signs like yield signs. A cyclist approaching an intersection controlled by a stop sign, would be permitted to go through the stop sign if there are no other vehicles at the intersection. The city can allow this practice (a violation of state law) by implementing a policy of not ticketing such bicyclists.

(7) Improve our interior residential streets throughout the SASY neighborhood for increased pedestrian and bicycle safety.

## **Focus: Revisioning our interior residential streets**

We decided to take concerted and focused action on the last suggestion, the revisioning of our interior streets, since working on that can effectively address most of the issues and ideas we brought to the table tonight and which are important for our committee. Focusing on this will also allow us to take advantage of the Mayor's interest in placemaking and to perhaps leverage city attention, support and/or resources to our neighborhood for this purpose.

### **EFFECTIVE BUZZWORDS**

Some of the effective buzzwords we may utilize when appropriate, due to drawing attention and support from city staff:

- Placemaking
- Quicker, Lighter, Cheaper (a placemaking concept)
- Cut-through streets

## Purpose

Purposes for Revisioning our interior residential streets:

- Bike path is over-capacity at times and is often unsafe for pedestrian use.
- Eventually the bike path through our neighborhood will connect to East Towne and the Sun Prairie bike path system, which will most likely cause the path to be a major commuter route and much busier than now.
- Bicyclists who like to ride fast need effective street routes rather than using the ped-bike paths.
- More pedestrian and bicycle pathways and routes are needed through our neighborhood.
- Creating more beautiful parkway-type travel routes through interior streets might reduce and free up pedestrian use of path by enticing pedestrians elsewhere—to the residential streets.
- Increase aesthetics of interior streets, making them more park-like.
- We want to promote walking and biking in our neighborhood.
- Increased safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Reduce motor vehicle speeding on interior streets. Speeding is epidemic in most or all sections of the SASY neighborhood with complaints arising throughout SASY.
- Reduce motor vehicle cut-throughs on interior residential streets.
- Create incentives for neighbors and visitors to bicycle and/or walk instead of drive on our residential streets.
- Connect and create contiguous greenbelts throughout the neighborhood, i.e. connecting the Hudson and Olbrich Parks greenway and the Eastwood greenway by Dunning with a more pedestrian-friendly Dunning St.
- Increase quality of life.
- Increase rainwater filtration.
- Create placemaking throughout our entire SASY neighborhood.
- Fully utilize and leverage the current city attention our neighborhood is receiving for placemaking.

## Possible Areas

Some of the interior street areas we discussed for initial improvements:

- A way to connect the river/Yahara Park greenspace contiguously with the Indian mounds/Olbrich Park greenspace. Possible ideas: create woonerfs in the areas between these greenspaces—the 2200 to mid 2300 blocks of Lakeland and the 700 block of Dunning.
- A way to connect the river/Yahara Park greenspace contiguously with the bike path greenspace. Possible ideas: create a woonerf along Dunning Street from Sommers to the lake.
- Woonerf on 400 block of Russell to prevent cut-through vehicle traffic and to support this play area currently used by children.
- Evaluating stop sign alignment along Sommers and Center Avenues to encourage cars to quickly move to and from arterial streets and reduce cut-through driving.
- Send a letter from SASY to the city encouraging police to not ticket bicyclists who safely follow the Idaho (rolling) Stop Law so that increased and/or inconvenient stop signs don't unnecessarily impede bicycle traffic.
- Changes around Hawthorne Park to improve safety for children.

## **Actions**

Actions we will be taking before our next meeting;

- Tim will chart what direction the stop signs face through out Sommers and Center Avenues.
- Chart stop sign directions throughout SASY area.
- Take note which interior streets have no parking on one (or both) sides.
- Take note how many street parking areas are under-utilized throughout SASY at different times of the day and on different days.
- Look around for residential areas we might address.

## **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 27, 6:30-8:30pm, in the United Way building on Atwood Ave, in the second floor conference room. Use the lobby phone and dial 4392 to buzz the room and someone will let you in.