A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Traffic Safety Reviews: Why the Solutions Might Be Different from Travelers' Expectations

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TRANSPORTATION

Dakota transportation we get you there















* Annual Intersection Crash Listing
* Annual Intersection Control Evaluation
* County Roadway Safety Plan
* Identify issues in a systematic manner. Recommend action based on assessment of the specific location to minimize safety risk.





- * How many accidents and potential deaths is this going to take before some sort of traffic control is put in place?
- * Do you have children? Have you spent time on the roadway? Absolutely ridiculous. Who are the Supervisors that need to be consulted?
- * In rush hour it's crazy to try to get out of the neighborhood. (That's why I want a signal, but I know that's not going to happen).











Traffic Control Tradeoffs

Traffic Signal

Used for

- * Consistently high volumes of traffic
- * Collector or arterial routes

Drawbacks

- * Additional decision making
- * Increased risk of crashes compared to other traffic control
- * Can create delay
- * Rarely improve safety





Roundabouts

Used for

- * Moderate to high traffic volumes
- * Improving traffic flow
- * Significant reduction in crash severity

Drawbacks

- * Higher cost
- * Increased crash rates
- * Not suitable for principal arterials



* Do we want to wait until a pedestrian is struck, too (if that hasn't happened yet)?









































Public Engagement Neighborhood Meeting

Key Elements toward a successful outcome:

- * Establish Meeting Purpose
- * Develop Trust with Community
- * Discuss what we've heard / looked at
- * Provide "big picture frame work"
- * Considerations
- * Next Steps

Public Engagement Neighborhood Meeting

Meeting Objectives:

- * Discuss Safety Concerns
- * Highway Safety in Dakota County
- * Share Traffic Engineering Principals
- * Recognize Traffic Engineering Tradeoffs
- * How Cliff & Dodd Fits
- * Next Steps





















Traffic Engineering Parameters

Minnesota Statutes 169.06 Subd. 1 – Uniform System

- * Devices conform to State specifications
- * Provides criteria for various traffic control, including volume thresholds for
 - * All way stops
 - * Traffic signals

Signal Justification Report

- * Requires State approval
- * Due to impacts on safety and traffic, focus on need throughout the day (8 hours), not peak hour alone





Cliff and Dodd Considerations

Side Stop:

- * Most times of the day Dodd Road has minimal delay
- * Some queuing and delay during parts of the peak hour
- * Requires Dodd Road to wait for gap in traffic

All-way stop:

- * Traffic only met 3 of 8 hours
- * Traffic volumes not balanced Dodd much lower than Cliff
- * Concern about increased crash and crash severity risk
- * Concern about increased delays for Cliff Road
- * Reduces delay for Dodd Road during peak times of the day



Traffic Signal:

- * Traffic only met 3 of 8 hours
- * Increased crash and severity risk
- * Increased delay
- * Assigned time to cross roadway

Roundabout:

- * Significantly higher traffic on Cliff Road
- * Impacts main road all day
- * Improves mobility and potentially safety for side road traffic
- * Cliff Road long term needs
- * Enhanced treatment for bikes & pedestrians
- * Intersection focused solution

Cliff and Dodd Options

Right Turn Lane on Cliff Road at Dodd Road:

- * Address issue of passing turning vehicles
- * Doesn't address side street crashes or delay

Four-lane Divided Roadway on Cliff Road (Lexington to TH 3):

- * Provides capacity and additional gaps
- * Minimize side street delay and need for traffic control
- * Associated turn lanes sort and store traffic
- * Addresses Long-term traffic needs along Cliff Road
- * Cost and impacts

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Public Engagement Neighborhood Meeting

Layout Next steps And How we will continue to communicate









Engineering Study Process

- * Field Review
- * Crash/Safety Review
 - Typically 3+ years of data to establish trends
- * Traffic Volume Review
 - Evaluate various traffic control based on standard criteria
 - Typically look at 8 hour needs
- * System-wide Traffic Control Comparison







Dodd & Icenic /Heritage Traffic Volume Review

- * During the afternoon peak hour, over 1200 vehicles travel through this intersection.
- * Crossing or turn movements (both approaches) account for or approximately 8 % of the entering volume.



As traffic increases, it will become more challenging to find gaps in traffic to cross or turn onto the roadway.



Dodd & Icenic/Heritage Roundabout Considerations

- * Traffic volumes are not balanced
- * Maintains all movements to businesses at intersection
- * Potential for interaction with existing signal (peak hour back-ups)
- * Reduces severe crashes / increases property damage crashes
- * Greater property impacts/costs and overall construction costs

A roundabout at Dodd & Icenic/Heritage is not appropriate considering traffic on Dodd and the Icenic/Heritage approaches.

Intersection	Traffic Control	Mainline AADT	Side Road AADT	Entering Volume	Volume Distribution (%)
Dodd (CSAH 9) & Highview Ave	Roundabout (2&1)	13,700	4,500/4,750	18,325	75/25
202 nd St (CSAH 50) & Holyoke Ave	Future Roundabout (2&1)	12,800/7,000	7,900/5,800	16,750	59/41
Dodd (CSAH 9) & 185 th St (CSAH 60)	Recent Signal	9,600/13,700	9,000	16,150	72/28
Dodd (CSAH 9) & Flagstaff Ave	Future Single-lane Roundabout	11,900/8,000	6,700/5,900	16,250	61/39
Dodd (CSAH 9) & Icenic/Heritage	Side stop	12,000	1,200	13,500	90/10
Dodd (CSAH 9) & 194 th St	Side Stop	9,600	2,100	11,700	82/18



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- * No change to entering traffic
- * Existing patterns for business traffic changes
- * Directional Access Intersection will <u>address safety issues</u> with left turn and crossing traffic from the side road
- * Typical approach throughout county
- * Diverted trips safely accommodated at nearby intersections

Directional median is reasonable approach to addressing safety while maintaining access and mobility (businesses & highway)















Dodd Boulevard & 194th Street Traffic Control Review (No Construction)

CONCERNS WE'VE HEARD

- Difficulty crossing or turning onto Dodd Boulevard from the side road
- Need for pedestrian crossing accommodations
- Speed
- Extra concern due to proximity of the high school & young drivers

Dodd Boulevard & 194th Street Traffic Control Review (No Construction)

STUDY WORK

- Collected & evaluated traffic volumes, including with anticipated development near intersection
- Assessed traffic control & compared to other intersections
- Field observation during school start, dismissal & non-school times
- Assessed long-term traffic control needs consistent with reviews throughout the county system.

Dodd Boulevard & 194 th Street affic Control Review (No Construction FIC VOLUME COMPARISON							
Intersection	Traffic Control	Mainline Average Daily Traffic	Side Road Average Daily Traffic	Total Entering Volume	Volume Distribution		
Dodd Blvd. & 194 th St	Side Street Stop	9,600	2,100	11,700	82/18		
CSAH 50 & Holyoke Ave	Future Roundabout (2v1)	12,800/7,000	7,900/5,800	16,750	59/41		
CSAH 9 & Highview Ave	Roundabout (2v1)	13,700	4,500/4,750	18,325	75/25		
CSAH 9 & CSAH 60 (185 th St)	Recent Signal	9,600/13,700	9,000	16,150	72/28		



PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

- Signing and striping alone do not increase pedestrian safety along high speed roadways
- Multiple threat crashes are a major concern at four-lane roadways
- Crosswalk markings not recommended
- Separated crossing (tunnel) was reviewed with the Dodd Boulevard project and determined not feasible
- Consideration to move crossing along Dodd Boulevard away from the intersection
- School district busses students east of Dodd due to hazardous crossing.



• The intersection will be reviewed yearly to monitor changes in conditions



Amana Trail Corridor Review

- * Posted Speed Determined by MnDOT.
 Dakota County has requested MnDOT provide a speed authorization. Final determination expected this summer.
- * Pedestrian Crossings Plan for new crossing locations to improve safety by reducing conflicts and providing a refuge for pedestrians.
- * Traffic Control at Amana and Addisen Ensure that traffic control has the lowest risk for crashes.



Amana and Addison Path Traffic Control Considerations

Consider traffic control tradeoffs to minimize risk:

- All Traffic Control has crash risk based on driver error
- Assess existing and future traffic conditions to determine best approach

Side Stop:

- * Addisen Path stops, Amana does not
- * Works best throughout the day based on current (2,300 veh) and expected (9,400 veh) traffic conditions.
- * Adequate gaps are available for traffic on Addisen trail to cross or turn onto Amana Trail now and with full development south of Amana Trail.

Amana and Addison Path Traffic Control Considerations

Consider traffic control tradeoffs to minimize risk:

- All Traffic Control has crash risk based on driver error
- Assess existing and future traffic conditions to determine best approach

All-way stop:

- * Traffic meets no criteria for all-way stop (now or with future development)
- * Traffic volumes are not balanced 80% of the traffic is on Amana Trail
- * Increased crash and crash severity risk
- Rolling/disregard stops review showed 10% of vehicles disregarded or did not come to a complete stop.