



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

_____ **54** _____

Date August 22, 2016

Request from Council Member Christine Hensley for discussion regarding increased pedestrian traffic downtown and being proactive in planning.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
HENSLEY				
MOORE				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

City Clerk

Baumgartner, Laura L.

From: Steve & Christine Hensley <hensley.chrissteve@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Rauh, Diane I.
Subject: FW: Pedestrian Risks in new downtown developments

Diane – can you please include an item on the agenda re: increased pedestrian traffic downtown and being proactive in dealing with it. Thanks,

From: Morris, Jeremy A [mailto:MORRIJ1@nationwide.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2016 9:27 AM
To: joegatto@dmgov.org; ccoleman@dmgov.org; chensley@dmgov.org; skipmoore@dmgov.org
Cc: fcownie@dmgov.org; pmdelafield@dmgov.org
Subject: Pedestrian Risks in new downtown developments

I figured blanket coverage would help show some concern on the matter but shockingly, this is probably a more positive email for you.

As the downtown area continues to grow, with new developments popping up quickly, there are some new needs for sidewalks, pedestrian signals and possible speed limit changes.

Right now, the new housing developments by Knapp and Hubbell on SW 9th and Eychner properties updating so many of the formerly empty strip malls along SW 8th, we are starting to run into a lot of issues being a pedestrian in the area.

My household moved downtown into Cityville on 9th this last February and are excited for what is coming, however, we are running into more consistent near death experiences trying to walk into the downtown area from our home.

With the DART depot on SW 11th and no sidewalks, we are finding ourselves constantly having to jump into the mud on the side of the road to avoid the fast paced buses coming out of the depot. While I enjoy getting in the mud, it doesn't make for an easy day in the office looking that way. Is there a timeline when sidewalks will be added here? Many of us in the complex work for Meredith, Wellmark or Nationwide. Are there any timelines on getting the sidewalks in place on this road? Or is there a way to slow the busses down as they rush towards MLK?

This also poses new hazards in the walking paths to connect towards the ballpark and court avenue. Mainly for myself along SW 8th. As cars are ramping towards the bridge to head into downtown they must round that curve where SW 9th splits. Many do not watch their speed and ignore any of the crosswalks. I don't believe traffic warrants a light yet, but we need more clearly marked pedestrian signals/signs to alert people to this. Or even to reduce the speed of vehicles to lessen the obstacles.

I've been trying to just be patient and wait out some of the construction but this morning was too much. While heading home from the gym a black truck came around SW 8th and I had to actually jump to the side of the road to not be hit. While the sun was just coming up, I was in a neon shirt and very visible. I was roughly ¾ of the way across the road and no possible way to have missed me but with his speed he had little time to react once he did see me.

In closing, I'm really just asking the city to be ahead of the growth curb here before this population doubles. Over the next few months there will be three new buildings opening at Cityville (meaning there will be 6 open with roughly 240 apartments), Knapp is roughly 80% (that building has 140+ apartments, I believe) done with their new building, three more buildings have broken ground in the complex and Hyvee will soon be open. We love living downtown and enjoy

the ability to walk more. Now we just need our leaderships help to keep that option available for us by providing safe options.

Thank you for getting this far and the work you are doing.



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Jeremy Morris

Casualty Bodily Injury, Spec II

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