



CITY OF APPLETON

MEMORANDUM

Date: 08/20/2024
To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Michael Hardy, P.E., Traffic Engineer
Subject: Grant application request for new traffic signal at the Richmond Street (STH 47) / Ridgeview Drive intersection

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is requesting authorization to apply for grant funds through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) *Safety and ITS Standalone Program* (SISP). Our grant application is to install a new permanent traffic signal (and make related improvements) at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 47 (Richmond Street) and Ridgeview Drive. The total estimated project cost is \$640,000, of which the local cost share would be 10% (\$64,000). Any real estate acquisition would be City's responsibility, separate from the SISP program (\$25,000). The deadline for this grant application submission is September 20th.

DPW is pursuing a 50/50 local cost share agreement with the Town of Grand Chute to split the local cost share (\$64,000 plus ~\$25,000 for real estate). The City would take the lead on this project, as most of this intersection falls within city limits. DPW has included \$75,000 in our 2025 proposed budget to front the consultant-supported design. Construction and real estate costs would be included in DPW's 2026 proposed budget.

Based on ongoing complaints, the Traffic Section reviewed the operations of the Richmond Street (STH 47) / Ridgeview Drive intersection. The complaints include the prevalence of crashes, long waits on Ridgeview Drive, difficult sight lines for northbound/southbound left turns, and challenges crossing Richmond Street for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Our review determined the traffic volumes are approaching the warrant thresholds, and the crash warrant was met in 2021. The recent development in the Town to the east is a contributing factor. Once the remaining green space in that area is developed, we anticipate the volume threshold will be met.

The scope of the proposed project will include a new permanent traffic signal, geometric improvements to sidewalks to achieve compliance with standards, and aligned left turn lanes for optimal visibility and safety.

Perhaps more pressing, WisDOT will be implementing a temporary traffic signal (with overhead span wire) at this intersection in April 2025 to mitigate traffic rerouting for the I-41 & Ballard Road interchange closure. We feel the temporary traffic signal will establish a precedent and

expectation by the public that traffic signal control should remain. We also feel this temporary signal will induce additional traffic on Ridgeview Drive, resulting in additional signal warrants being met. WisDOT has agreed to keep their temporary signal in operation through the summer of 2026 to allow for construction of this new, permanent signal.