

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

COMMUNITY FORUM on
NORTHSIDE TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES
Wednesday October 29, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Forum Background & Format

The Northside Planning Council, Northside Business Association and Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway held a community forum on Northside transportation and traffic safety issues on October 29, 2008. The purpose of the forum was to provide an opportunity to gather community input on Northsiders' concerns and ideas about what we need to do to make the Northside's major traffic corridors safer and better for businesses and all users – vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Particular focus was given to N. Sherman Avenue due to its recent reconstruction and the volume of constituent calls received about the street.

Dan McCormick & Scott Langer (City Traffic Engineering); Lt. Brian Ackeret (Madison North Police District); and Lisa Wiese (Northside Walking Audit/Safe Communities Coalition) provided background information on traffic volume, speed, accident rates, specific locations/intersections with identified problems as well as tools and strategies to improving traffic safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists and access to and visibility for local businesses. A summary of the data and information presented by Traffic Engineering staff can be viewed online at:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/Announcements/NorthsideForum/NorthsideCommunityForum.cfm>

A broad mix of approximately 55 Northside residents and business owners attended this interactive forum. After hearing background information, participants took part in small groups with 7 to 8 people in each, for a total of two rounds of eight facilitated groups. In the first round, each group identified their top 2 to 3 concerns related to the Northside's major traffic corridors -- Northport/Packers/Hwy CV, N. Sherman Ave., Aberg Ave., & Troy Dr., with a primary focus on N. Sherman Avenue. In the second round, each group identified the top 2 to 3 tools & strategies they felt would best address their identified concerns.

Below is a summary of the priority concerns and solutions identified by multiple small groups, followed by concerns and solutions identified by only one group.

This summary of information does not represent the official position of the Northside Planning Council, the Northside Business Association, or Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway except as specifically noted.

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Summary of Results - Talled

Top Northside Traffic and Safety Concerns

Identified as priority by multiple groups (#) = of groups

Driving

- Traffic speed on **N. Sherman Ave.** is too fast (4)
- Intersection at **Hwy CV/Northport/Packers** very tricky intersection, bad visibility (2)
- Red light running at Northport/N. Sherman (2)

Biking

- Biking on **N. Sherman Ave.** is difficult, impossible, dangerous due to traffic speed & lack of bike lanes (6)

Walking

- Pedestrian crossing difficult on **N. Sherman Ave.** at
 - Aberg (2)
 - Northport (2)
- Pedestrian crossing difficult on **Aberg Ave.** at
 - Huxley (Pedestrian & bus user safety) (2)

Top Northside Traffic and Safety Solutions

Identified as priority by multiple groups (#) = of groups

Broad Solutions

- Redesign N. Sherman as “Main Street” (w/ place-making solutions) (5) [includes 1 from concerns above and 1 from N. Sherman redesign as town-center street]

Driving/Roads

- **N. Sherman Ave.**
 - Reconfigure N. Sherman Ave. to calm traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross traffic lanes. The most frequently mentioned reconfiguration was two traffic lanes w/ center turn lane and bike lanes. (4)*
**Several forum participants noted the Northside Business Association’s position that N. Sherman Avenue should remain in its current 4-lane configuration.*
- **Northport/N. Sherman Ave.**
 - Eliminate right turn “skimmer lane” from Northport southbound onto N. Sherman (2)
- **Stop Lights**
 - Consistency & better timing of traffic lights including red in all directions for a few sections to clear intersection (2)
 - Add traffic/stop light
 - At Trailsway (2)

Biking

- Bikes should have multiple, alternate paths/routes, such as: (3)
 - Designated bike path rather than using streets OR paint the bike lanes on the local streets.
 - Explore/commit to alternate path/routes for bicyclists
 - Aberg to Commercial bike access thru Oscar Meyer’s
 - Rail corridor easements (keep pressing RR) M&I Bank to Sheridan
 - Northport/Packers

Walking

- Add various pedestrian amenities, e.g., ped flags, ped activated crossing signals (esp. at Aberg & Huxley), pedestrian signs in center at ped crossings (increase awareness esp. on Aberg & Trailsway) (3)
- Add pedestrian islands on N. Sherman at entrance to WPCRC & Northside TownCenter (2)

Northside traffic and safety concerns identified by only one group

Driving

- **N. Sherman Ave.**
 - Speed [+ partially tallied above] and traffic flow impedes residents getting out of driveways
 - Keep 4 lanes [solution]
 - Difficult to turn left out of businesses on N. Sherman
- **Northport Drive**
 - Speed too fast
- **Hwy CV/Northport/Packers**
 - Speed too fast
- **Behavior**
 - Bad driving habits on main streets/rule breaking
- Traffic volume during rush hour & special events on only two arteries CV/Packers & N. Sherman

Biking

- **N. Sherman Ave.**
 - Bikers should stay off N. Sherman, but be accommodated on alternative routes (e.g., Ruskin/Fremont)
- **Aberg/Huxley**
 - Biking difficult

Walking

- Pedestrian crossing difficult on **N. Sherman Ave.** at
 - Trailsway
 - Entrance/exit to Warner Park, esp. car traffic & pedestrians at Mallards games
- Speed makes it hard to cross N. Sherman
- Pedestrian crossing difficult on **Packers Ave.** at
 - Commercial

Broad Concerns

- Improve the look of Sherman, make it into a Main Street [solution]

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- Carefully consider use of speed bumps (unintended traffic steering)\*
  - Stop sign running at Delaware/ N. Sherman\*
  - Tough intersections- Schlimgen, School\*
- \* Added individual comments not prioritized by group.

## **Northside traffic and safety ideas or solutions identified by only one group**

### ***Broad Solutions***

- Comprehensive Corridor Plan (City, neighborhood, state) including streetscaping and ped/bike [could be added to Main Street, but could also be broader.]
- Beautification of CV/Packers & Northport as gateway

### ***Driving/Roads***

- **CV/Packers & Northport**
  - Roundabout at CV/Packers & Northport
  - Make Northport/Packers commuter route (divert traffic off of N. Sherman)

### ***Stop Lights***

- Add traffic/stop light
  - At Oxford & Roxbury (Safety)
  - By Shabbaz
  - And widen intersection at Aberg & School

### ***Traffic calming***

- Enforce speed limits
  - Lower speed limit to 25 mph
- Paint lane lines on Fordem

### ***Biking***

- Align right of way with bike route (Ruskin)

### ***Walking***

- Add pedestrian islands at N. Sherman/Trailsway
- Add sidewalk in Northside TownCenter parking lot\*