

Public Services Committee

Meeting Agenda

May 24, 2021 4:30 p.m.

EMT Training Room – Thurber Community Building

1. May 24, 2021 /4:30 p.m. EMT Training Room -Thurber Community Building.
2. Consider speed controls on Highway 30/74.
3. Discuss cost of mattress disposal.

Members Present: Councilor Pam Bluhm and John McBroom.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Rocky Burnett, Brian Burkholder and Joel Young.

Ambulance Pagers & Wireless Headsets: Rocky Burnett presented a proposal to upgrade five pagers with three year extended warranties at a cost of \$2,225.00. The committee determined to recommend that the city council approve this purchase at the next city council meetings.

Burnett presented a proposal to purchase wireless headsets for the ambulances. Burnett explained that these headsets would improve service and provide better safety for the EMTs. He pointed out that the headsets have a range of 1,600 feet, which allows them to function similar to a radio when the EMTs are out of the truck and need to communicate with the truck or others. Burnett also pointed out that these headsets will allow the EMTs to communicate with the trauma center during transport without removing their seatbelts to move to the radio in the ambulance. The Firefighters Activities Association has agreed to donate enough money to pay for one set of headsets while a CARES grant might be available to pay for the other headset. The Committee decided to recommend approval of the purchase, which is estimated to be \$5,200 per ambulance.

Number of Allowable Pets: The committee considered a request submitted by a resident that the City allow a greater number of dogs in a household than the two currently allowed. The request also suggested that special exceptions to the maximum number be allowed on an individual basis, if the number cannot be increased for everyone. The committee chose not to recommend any change to the number of pets that are allowed in any one home.

Other: Burkholder reported that he has submitted an application to MNDOT to install the radar speed sign but has not received a response.

McBroom asked about the status of the retaining wall replacement project on Avenue B. Burkholder reported that he intends to have that included in the 2023 Street Project.

McBroom reported that he had received a complaint about a particular property. Young said that the same complaint had been received in the office, and that the complainant asked that the City deal with the issue in a way that is as subtle as possible. The complaint has been given to the police department to handle.

To: The Chatfield Public Services Committee and City Council

From: Todd and Brenda Johnson, 322 Winona Street SE, Chatfield

Thank you for your service to our city. It's wonderful for Chatfield to have dedicated local officials, and it shows in the quality of our community. Much can change over the course of time, but some things continue to remain important.

Winona Street continues to be an important walking route in our city, which was recognized with a city designation as a walking/jogging loop. People drive to Winona Street, park at Chatfield Lutheran Church, and get out of their cars to walk along Winona Street. Neighborhood residents of all ages use it throughout the year, especially during nice weather.

Winona Street, in the area near our home, has had a resurgence of younger families with small children. It's an absolute treat to get to know them by name, have them stop by our house, or even come to the front porch for visits. They find the Johnsons amusing, and we enjoy their company, too. They, too, make significant use of the Winona Street walking/jogging loop with their families.

Winona Street continues to be an important traffic route to the high school, city pool, golf course, nursing home, assisted living, several churches, and a significant residential area. Winona Street is a very busy street.

Our home is next to Hendricks Park, and we have a great view of the park, as well as the intersection of Winona Street and 3rd Street. With all that is going well in our neighborhood, we have concerns with the intersection, traffic on 3rd Street and Winona Street, and traffic that comes down the hill to our neighborhood. Here are our concerns:

1. Traffic going east on 3rd Street often begins strong acceleration by Root River Bank, continuing to speed up past Chatfield Lutheran Church, and by the time they reach the Winona Street intersection, they are going much faster than 30mph.
2. As the eastward traffic starts up the hill, there is no signage to alert them that they are still in a 30mph zone. Many are already well above the speed limit, and many others quickly speed up as soon as they are east of Winona Street. This applies to vehicles in general, not any specific type.
3. The sudden spurts of acceleration eastbound create noise that is not meant for a residential zone, nor a city that has a noise ordinance for residential areas.
4. Traffic coming down the hill toward Winona Street has similar excess speed problems that make the intersection at Winona Street dangerous. Pedestrians of all ages, from preschool to senior citizens, use that intersection. It's a primary walking route for kids to go to the high school or the pool, and it's part of our city walking/jogging loop which is heavily used, as it was intended to be.
5. Traffic going north on Winona Street stop at 3rd Street before entering the intersection. Because there are poor sightlines for drivers both west and east of the intersection, and because vehicles coming down the hill or going east on 3rd Street are often well above the speed limit, the driver attempting to go into the intersection from Winona Street has very little time to react to speeding vehicles entering the intersection from the east or west.
6. The amount of traffic at the 3rd Street/Winona Street intersection has increased. People use this route to and from the new elementary school. Buses now use this intersection for school transportation. There is a subdivision between Winona Street and the street to the school, and there are more homes getting built around the school site. **MNDOT traffic data shows 85% more traffic at this intersection from 2018 to 2020.** (See the image on the next page from MNDOT.) This intersection needs to better handle the flow safely.
7. Chatfield has taken the position of allowing the use of ATVs and other non-traditional vehicles on city streets. With the ATV trail just outside the city, the city pool on the north end, and the golf course on the south end, Winona Street has numerous non-traditional vehicles travelling on it from early spring to late fall, sometimes even in winter. These users have the same sightline issues and speed issues when they travel north on Winona Street and enter the intersection with 3rd Street. ATVs, golf carts, and other vehicles without the occupant safety features of an automobile are even more vulnerable in an accident.

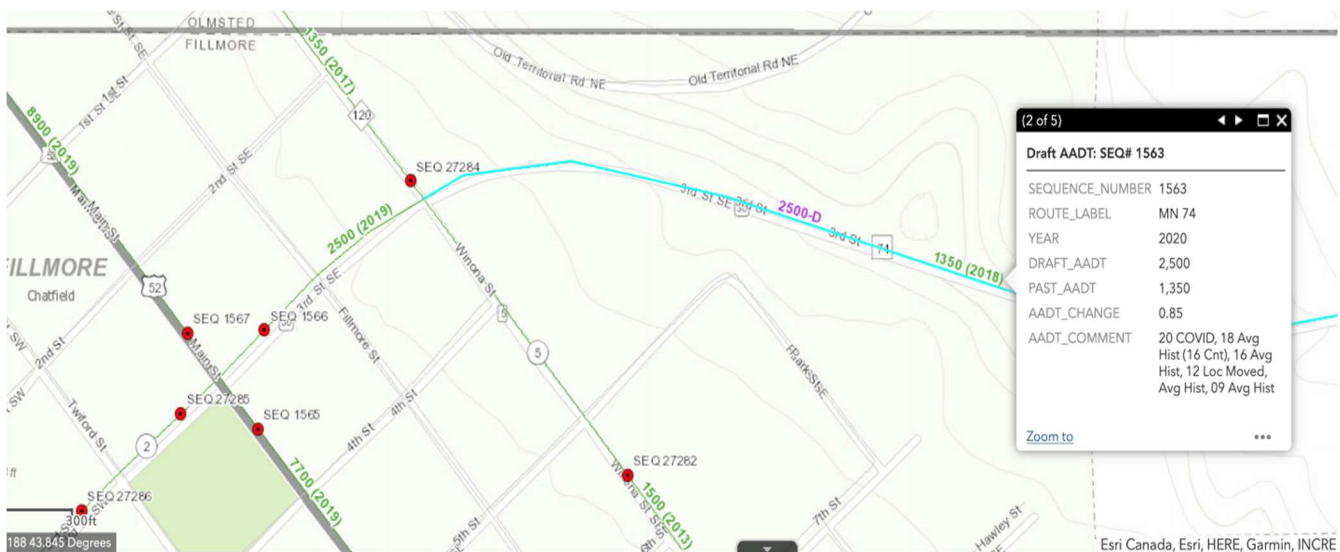
What this area and intersection need:

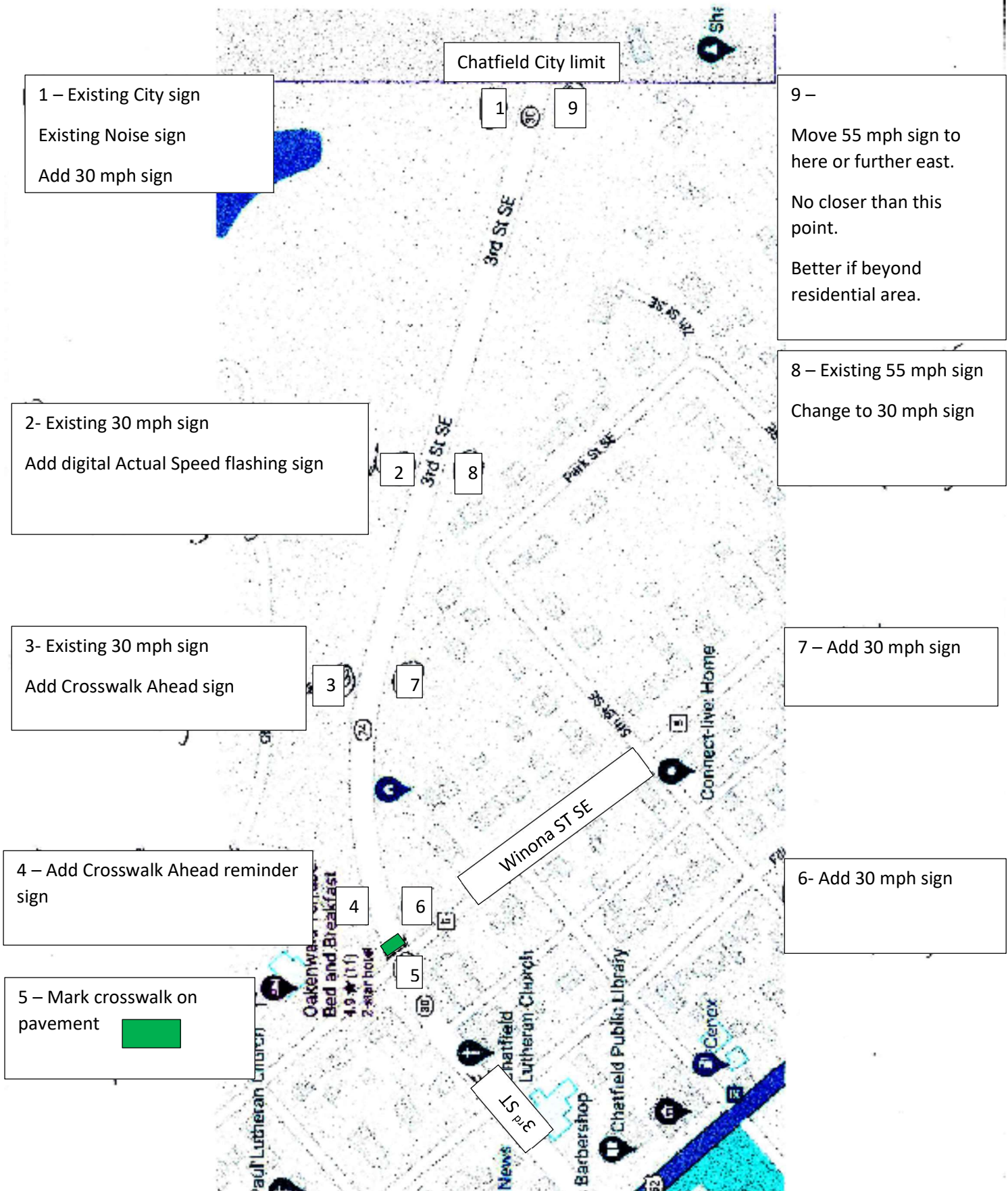
1. New 30mph speed limit signs just east of Winona Street and also further east up the hill to remind people driving east (up the hill) that they are still in a 30mph zone and in a residential area.
2. New 30mph speed limit signs east of Winona Street for people driving west (down the hill) into Chatfield to inform them they are in a residential area.
3. The crosswalk along Winona Street at the intersection needs to be marked with lines on the street and a sign to alert drivers there is a designated crosswalk. This makes sense for this intersection with Winona Street being a designated walking/jogging loop.
4. Move the 55mph speed sign to the city limits, or further if possible, to reduce noise for the residential area.

In summary (tldr):

Excessive speeds, poor sightlines, insufficient signage, lack of crosswalk markings, and a near doubling of traffic volume in the last two years have made the intersection of Winona Street and 3rd Street unsafe for a residential neighborhood. We ask you to implement additional speed signage, move an existing sign, and add crosswalk markings and crosswalk signage to improve the safety and functionality of this intersection, and to reduce excessive noise.

Thank you for your work on this issue for the safety of our community.





To: The Chatfield Public Services Committee & City Council

From: Kevin Tuohy and Leslie Tannahill, 402 Winona Street Se, Chatfield

We are copying you the Documents from Todd & Brenda Johnson that we have been talking back and forth on. We agree fully with the letter. As we observe traffic coming down and going up hill on Hwy 74, a good share of vehicles are going over speed limit, and using brake retarders all the way down to the Bank. There should be 45 mph speed limit starting up by City View Ln to get traffic to start slowing down before they get to 30mph zone. Over the years there has been many accidents at the Hwy 74 & Winona Street intersection. We think its time to get MNDOT involved in this process to prevent a serious incident happening.

Thank you