



Planning & Zoning
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May 18, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Dan Devine
and Members of the Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis WI 53214

RE: Communication about Active Streets initiative and partnership with Milwaukee County

Dear Mayor Devine and Common Council Members:

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities across the country, including Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and Shorewood are closing down certain streets to motorized thru traffic and opening them up for people to walk, bike, and run. This initiative is called Active Streets.

Physical activity is considered essential and important to maintain physical and mental health during this time of physical distancing. Active Streets allows people to utilize street space to maintain physical distancing requirements while exercising or traveling. Reducing motor vehicle traffic is an added benefit that will make people feel safer riding a bike in the street and provide space to walk or run in the street.

Based on the success of last year's Active Streets project, Planning staff proposes to rejoin the effort by partnering with Milwaukee County and temporarily close two sections of the Root River parkway to thru traffic. The Root River parkway is an ideal parkway for this initiative due to its designation as a County road, its connections to the Oak Leaf Trail, and Milwaukee County has been agreeable to this proposal. More information at activestreeets.mailchimpsites.com.

The proposed Active Streets map for the Root River parkway is below. The northern section between S. 124 St. and W. Cleveland Ave. will close starting May 21st and the southern section between W. Oklahoma Ave. and W. Morgan Ave. will close later due to construction of the Waukesha pipeline. Abutting neighbors and/or neighborhood associations along the route will be notified of the project. The street will be closed to thru traffic using barricades and signage. Compliance with the No Thru Traffic and Local Traffic Only will be based on the honor system. The streets would still be open to City services. Adjustments can be made at any point as this is a low effort initiative. Cooperation with the City Engineer, Department of Public Works, Mayor and 5th District Alderpersons has helped bring this Planning initiative to fruition.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tony Giron
Planner

