

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Dan Roadt  
Vince Vitale  
Suzzette Grisham  
Rosalie Reinke  
Tracy Stefanski

**FROM:** Peter C. Daniels, P.E., City Engineer

**DATE:** May 4, 2021

**RE:** **Communication regarding Driveway Permit Application at 805 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street**

The Engineering Department has received a request to modify and reopen an existing driveway for the Dawes property at 805 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. Dawes is requesting the widening of their existing 15 foot wide driveway that they currently are not using. This driveway widening would coincide with the closure of their northernmost driveway inside the City of Milwaukee.

This driveway modification request is in response to the planned construction of a connection to the Hank Aaron State Trail (HAST) from 72<sup>nd</sup> Street that is currently being negotiated with the WisDNR and with the City of Milwaukee Attorney's Office and Engineering Department. The City of Milwaukee is currently designing this connection (which is inside the City of Milwaukee borders) that will be built and paid for by the City of West Allis (since it benefits our residents exclusively). The closure of the northernmost Dawes driveway and reopening of this existing driveway will enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists using the HAST connection.

The widening of this driveway to 40 feet was previously approved by the City of West Allis back on April 2, 1986, but the permit was never acted on by Dawes. In addition the West Allis Plan Commission also approved this driveway location back in 2005 when they approved the landscaping plan for Dawes.

Manufacturing driveways are allowed to have a maximum width of 30 feet in accordance with Revised Municipal Code:

*11.09 (b) - Width of Driveway. The width of the driveway shall be consistent with the width of the side drive or attached garage, but in no case greater than thirty (30) feet, except in industrial zoned areas where a driveway may be of greater width when approved by the Board of Public Works.*

and in accordance with City Policy Section 2801: Driveway Permits:

5.2.2 – *“Commercial properties may have a **30 foot maximum driveway** opening at the lot line”*

5.2.4 – *“Driveway requests involving commercial, multi-family and **manufacturing properties** must be approved by the Board of Public Works, which acts upon the recommendation of the Engineering Department.”*

The Engineering Department recommends approval by the Public Works Committee for a wider driveway at this property. These driveway widths would not create any foreseeable issues at this location since it is in a manufacturing area already. The City Plan Commission and City Council have also previously approved the plans for this driveway.