

# Memorandum

TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works  
Michael Czaplewski, First District  
Martin Weigel, Second District  
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District  
James Sengstock, Fifth District

FROM: Michael Lewis, City Engineer

DATE: December 11, 2009

RE: **Communication from City Engineer Regarding 60<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project-Traffic Signals at Mineral**

We have been asked by a couple of Aldermen to revisit the action taken in June of this year on the traffic signals at 60<sup>th</sup> and Mineral Streets. At that time, we presented to the Board that part of the traffic study that showed that the traffic signals at Mineral Street do not meet the signal warrants now or in the next twenty years.

The June memo pointed out that installing unnecessary signals causes a number of problems besides additional costs. It restricts and delays traffic flow for cyclists and drivers alike, increases air pollution and increases accidents like rear-end collisions. It also encourages people to run yellow and red lights. As an example, accidents decreased after the traffic signals were removed on 72<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Street along National Avenue. Traffic signals do not decrease accidents.

In June, using the best information we had, we estimated that West Allis' share of reinstalling the signal at about \$26,000, based on the 80%-20% WisDOT-West Allis split. The final estimate recently sent to WisDOT has us at our WisDOT funding cap. Therefore, any additional costs will be 100% West Allis.

Considering traffic control and street light design is the last thing done, the original estimate of \$120,000 in June is now \$80,000. This reduction is basically the result of physically inspecting every fixture along 60<sup>th</sup> Street since June and determining that some fixtures can be reused. Along with the estimated \$80,000 there will also be an additional \$2,000 for consulting fees to redraw the plans and add this work as an addendum to the bid package that WisDOT will hand out on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Engineering Department is not recommending spending \$82,000 (plus future operating costs) on traffic signals that are not warranted, but we are recommending an alternative.

For maybe \$2,000 we would, with our crews, install the conduit needed for traffic signals. After the project is completed and new traffic data obtained, it's shown that signals are needed, we could install them without opening the new street.

Cc: Common Council  
Mayor Dan Devine