

March 16, 2006

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Subject: American Automobile Association  
Road Improvement Demonstration Project

Dear Council Members:

On July 7, 2004, the Common Council adopted File Number 040253, which authorized the Department of Public Works to participate in the American Automobile Association's (AAA) Road Improvement Demonstration Program (RIDP) in partnership with AAA Wisconsin, the Federal Highway Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT), Milwaukee County, and the police departments and public works departments of several other neighboring Municipalities. We are providing the following information as an update on current work completed on this project as we enter the proposed third phase of this project.

The project was brought to this area by AAA Wisconsin after the program was initiated by AAA in Michigan, and was extremely successful in reducing traffic accidents in that State. Under this project, travel corridors and other individual intersections in the City having high frequencies of accidents were identified. Safety audits were then performed and a series of accident countermeasures were developed for these locations by a traffic consultant retained by AAA as part of this project.

The first phase of the project was begun in 2004. In the City of Milwaukee, safety audits were completed in the South 27<sup>th</sup> Street corridor from South Kinnickinnic River Parkway to West College Avenue, and at the intersections of South Layton Boulevard and West National Avenue, STH 100 and West Bluemound Road, West Center Street and North Teutonia Avenue, and West Silver Spring Drive and North 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

Following successful completion of several of these audits, funding for the implementation of safety improvements recommended was secured under the Federal

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Hazard Elimination – Safety Program for the intersections of South Layton Boulevard and West National Avenue, and West Center Street and North Teutonia Avenue, with construction to be completed on recommended traffic signal and signage improvements this coming summer. Roadway geometric improvements recommended at the intersection of South Layton Boulevard and West National Avenue are anticipated to be constructed in the spring of 2007.

Safety improvements recommended for the intersection of West Silver Spring Drive and North 60<sup>th</sup> Street have been incorporated into paving plans for the reconstruction of West Silver Spring Drive scheduled to be completed this year.

The safety audit for the segment of South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, which is under the jurisdiction of the City of Milwaukee and located between West Kinnickinnic River Parkway and West Howard Avenue, was just recently completed. Preparation of an application for Hazard Elimination funding for the recommended improvements on this segment is currently underway. Additionally, WISDOT has already secured funding for the implementation of recommended improvements for the remaining portion of South 27<sup>th</sup> Street, which is under their jurisdiction, as well as for improvements recommended at the intersection of STH 100 and West Bluemound Road.

A second phase of the program was begun in 2005, and included the City of Milwaukee intersections of West National Avenue and South 16<sup>th</sup> Street, South Howell Avenue and West Layton Avenue, West Silver Spring Drive from the USH 45 Freeway Ramps to Lovers Lane Road, and several high frequency accident locations in the North 35<sup>th</sup> Street corridor from West Wisconsin Avenue to West Burleigh Street. It is anticipated that Safety Studies for all locations in this second phase will be completed by early summer, 2006. As was the case with the first phase of this project, Federal Hazard Elimination funds will again be sought by the City for the implementation of recommended safety improvements at intersections under City jurisdiction.

AAA Wisconsin has now proposed to initiate a third phase of this project to begin in 2006. Following a review of high accident frequency locations in the City, the third phase has been proposed to include safety audits of the North Sherman Boulevard corridor between West Lloyd Street and West Capitol Drive, as well as the intersections of West Burnham Street and North 35<sup>th</sup> Street, and South Howell Avenue and West College Avenue. Other intersections in Oak Creek, Wauwatosa, West Allis, Brookfield and Waukesha will also be included in the third phase of the project.

With the implementation of the recommendations included in the first phase of the RIDP this summer, we anticipate that the City of Milwaukee will begin to experience accident

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reductions similar to those seen under the highly successful RIDP sponsored by AAA Michigan. We look forward to future improvements in traffic safety on City streets through our continued relationship with AAA Wisconsin and our other partners in the RIDP.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske  
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes  
Commissioner of Public Works

RWB:lja