

At the last transportation committee, we continued to discuss a number of items related to the Courtney Lane/Maple intersection. There were a number of suggestions that were made to help the residents voice their concerns to the City and the County about the proposed configuration for Courtney Lane/Maple Intersection.

These items included the following:

1.) Expressing concerns for student "Life Safety" when crossing Maple. Students crossing Maple at Courtney Lane presents issues with Life Safety because there would be no room for sidewalks in the "5 Lane configuration" required by the county due to speed limit on Maple.

2.) "Safe Route to School" for students and bicycles crossing Maple from the Brayton Knolls/Doral Ridge subdivisions.

95 students cross Maple from Brayton Knolls/Doral Ridge at Doral/Maple currently, and no sidewalks on the east side of Maple limit options on the "Safe Route to School". Letters to Dr. Angel by residents on this safety concern at Doral, and the high potential for issues at Courtney Lane and Maple due to excessive speeds with the proposed "5 lane configuration" should be sent to the School District for the elementary school.

3.) McHenry County Sheriff's Department Patrolling on Maple is non-existent.

A speed trailer that records speeds can be requested from the county and City of Marengo squads could monitor traffic coming into the city to check rates of speed.

Letters to the McHenry County Sheriff, the County Board District 6 members, and the Transportation Committee should be composed by residents of Brayton Knolls and Doral Ridge expressing their concerns on lack of speed enforcement and the rate of speed entering and exiting the city consistently exceeds posted speeds on Maple.

Requests by the City of Marengo to McHenry County for jurisdictional transfer of Maple to the City of Marengo have been met with denial of jurisdictional transfer. The reason cited is that Maple would no longer meet the definition for a county road. Proposals to the county using Ratfield at the starting point of jurisdiction down to Coral have been proposed with no response. This would bring Maple starting at Route 20 south to Ratfield under jurisdiction of the City of Marengo and

would allow the city to reduce speeds on Maple to a safer 35mph.

The resulting effect would reduce the full intersection size and make the design consistent with other intersections on Maple at Forest, Caroline, Francis, James, Randall, and Bauman streets.

5.) Maple is not a "typical" road because the 30mph speed increases to 35mph speed exiting the city climbs to 55mph and then reduces back to 45mph at Ratfield. The speed limit increases again south of Ratfield back to 55mph down to Coral. The speed on Route 23 is 30mph, increases to 35mph and is consistently 45mph down to Coral. Maple should be consistent with Route 23 at minimum or more stringent with the limited sight distances because of the terrain changes as it traverses South from Route 20 down to Coral.

6.) Analyzing criteria used to reduce speed limit on Route 23 to 45mph North of Coral up to Route 20.

Maple should be consistent with speeds on Route 23 at a minimum.

Ideally speeds should be more stringent because of residential areas on the east and west sides of Maple at Courtney Lane due to higher posted speed limit and limited sight distances of the terrain changes occurring from Doral south down to Coral.

7.) Drafting a petition and how to circulate and present it.

A petition to include the McHenry County Board District 6 and McHenry County Transportation Committee should be drafted, circulated and signed and then presented to these bodies that include the many safety concerns to be addressed detailed above.

8.) A traffic light at Route 20 and Prospect Street for traffic control.

Additional "safe Route to School" concerns apply to the Middle Schools and High Schools for students crossing at Route 20 and Prospect Street. Those same concerns for students exist at Route 176 and Prospect streets.

9.) Regular attendance of County Transportation Committee meetings.

Members of the Transportation Committee members, the Mayor, or the City Administrator need to start attending the McHenry County Transportation Committee Meetings. These meeting occur at the Woodstock center on the first and third Tuesdays in the morning. I would have to clarify those times again.

As your Ward 1 representative, I would be happy to attend the Brayton Knolls Home Owners Association Meetings if invited to discuss these items in more detail about how we as residents can take action and be involved to address the safety concerns long term for the Courtney Lane/Maple intersection. If any of the resident are willing to take the time to sit down and draft some letters to the Northwest Herald, the McHenry County Board District 6, the McHenry County Transportation Committee, or the McHenry County Sheriff's Department I would be more than willing to assist.

As I've said before, I live in your sub division at 600 Spring Drive, my phone number is 815-568-1069.
I would be more than willing to help in the endeavor to preserve the safety of the residents in Brayton Knolls in any way that is possible.

A viable temporary option is to open Courtney Lane as a restricted access intersection on the West side of Maple with a "removable pork chop" that would limit the amount of traffic entering the subdivision from the East and off Maple Northbound to mitigate the safety issues.

At such time the jurisdiction of Maple were to transfer to the City of Marengo, the pork chop could be removed with speeds being a safer 30 to 35 mph within city limits. This would mitigate all safety issue of a "Safe Route to School", pedestrian, bicycle, and auto crossings of Maple from Courtney Lane.

The Transportation Committee members are going to need the help of residents from both Doral Ridge and Brayton Knolls to keep this issue at the forefront of the McHenry County Board District 6, the McHenry County Transportation committee, and the McHenry county Sheriff's Department to effect change of the Courtney Lane Intersection speed and 5 lane configuration from "Mobility" to "Access" without endangering the safety of our children and fellow residents.

Thank you,

Mike Smith