

# Memorandum

Date: April 20, 2017

To: Jason Gilman and the South Avenue Multimodal Study Steering Committee

From: Kevin Luecke

Re: Public Meeting Summary

This memorandum provides a summary of the April 12, 2017 South Avenue Multimodal Study public meeting.

## Meeting Summary

The first public meeting for this study was held on Wednesday April 12, 2017 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Central High School. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the project to attendees, differentiate the project from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) South Avenue project, and solicit comments and input from attendees about issues and opportunities in the study area. A total of 45 people signed in for the meeting, including several City and WisDOT staff and City alders.

The meeting began with a brief presentation by Jason Gilman, City of La Crosse Planning Director, and Kevin Luecke, Toole Design Group Project Manager. A brief question and answer session was held following the presentation, and then attendees were encouraged to look at the various displays, provide input where appropriate, and converse with the project team. The remainder of this memo summarizes the input received.

## Input Posters

Four large posters provide common issues related to motor vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel in the study area and asked participants to vote for their top three priorities. Space was also provided for participants to add issues that were not included on the posters.

An additional poster asked participants to provide their vision, large or small, for the project area.

## Project Vision

The following comments were provided on the visioning poster:

### What is your vision for the study area?

Concerned about the cost. Won't we eventually have huge increased Federal, State, and local and sales taxes for our property and income taxes?

Better speed limit signage on Mormon Coulee and South Avenue especially at Ward Avenue.

Restaurants, coffee shops and a grocery store!

I think some mid-block pedestrian crossings and flashing lights would help between Chase and 16th.

Put up yellow flashing lights for pedestrian crossings

Put a bike path along the railroad tracks.

There are many useful and enjoyable destinations there already. It would be a shame to demolish existing homes and businesses. These places also employ people and pay property taxes

Keep as many turn lanes as possible.

Put in blinking crosswalks at Chase Street and South Avenue; pedestrians are unable to walk across the street.

I vote for right-in, right-out alternative with roundabouts and agree bikes need to go elsewhere.

Trane Park - provide accommodations, crossings, and parking options for new all-abilities park.

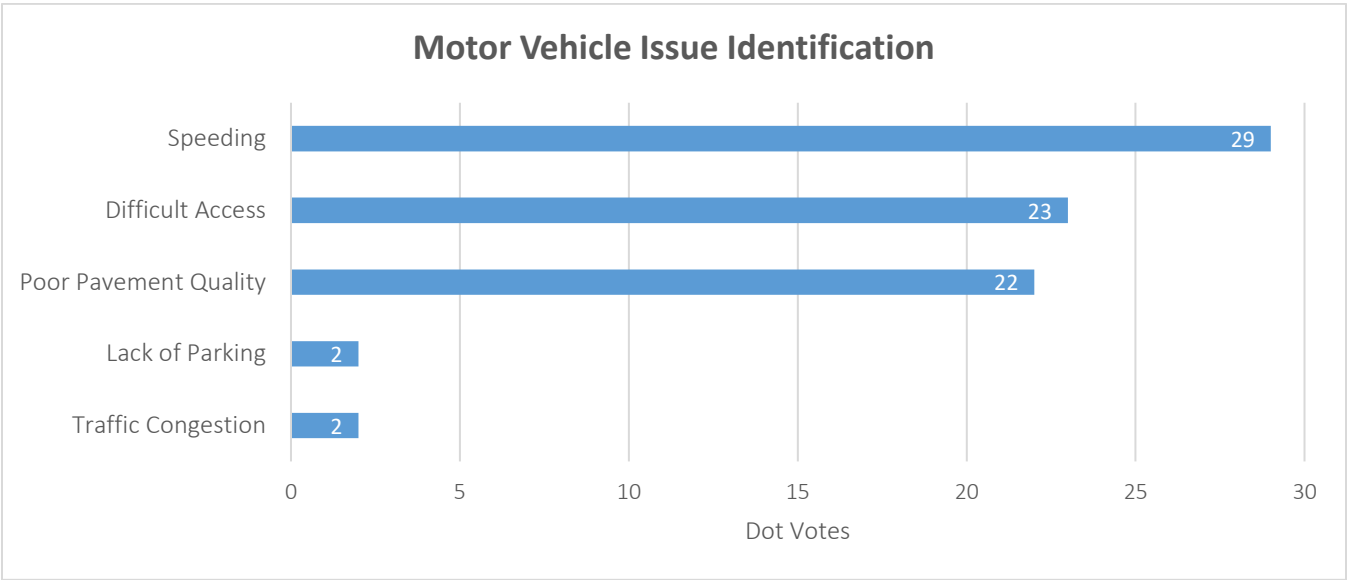
Turn lanes!

Perhaps draw more truck traffic of the side streets.

---

### Motor Vehicle Issue Identification

A total of 78 votes were cast on the motor vehicle issue identification poster:

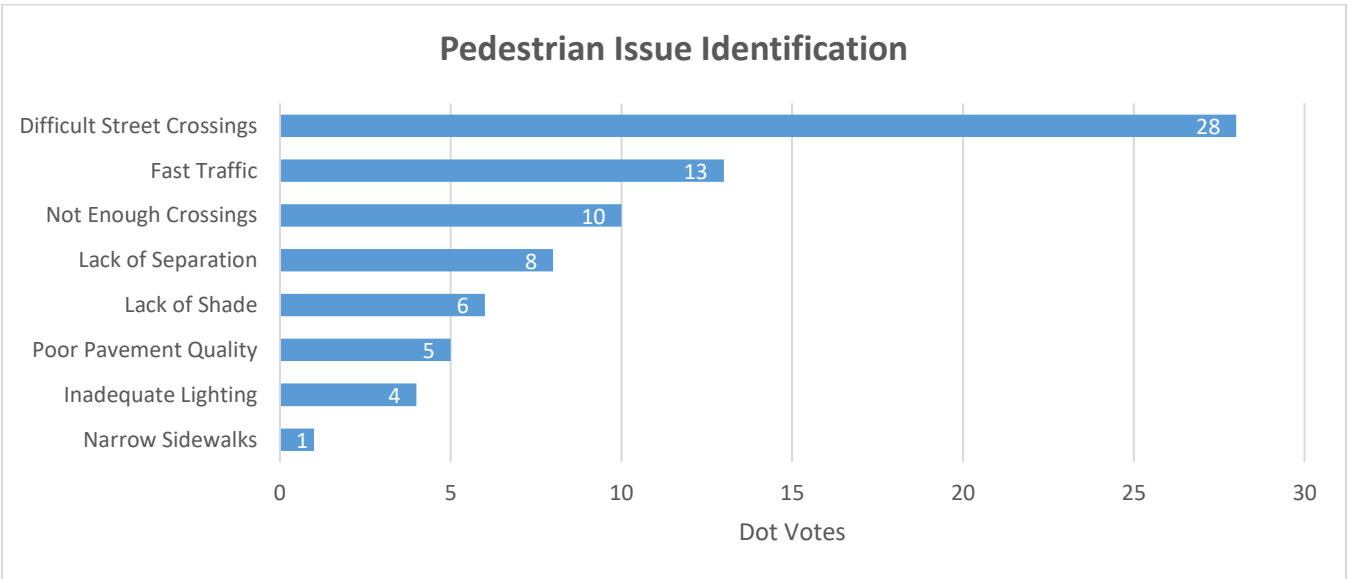


The following additional comments were also received:

- Proposed roundabouts may be more dangerous in snow or ice conditions.
- Fix potholes and existing problems on streets that need repairs before starting new projects.
- 15th Street should be kept open to South Avenue.

### Pedestrian Issue Identification

A total of 75 votes were cast on the pedestrian issue identification poster:



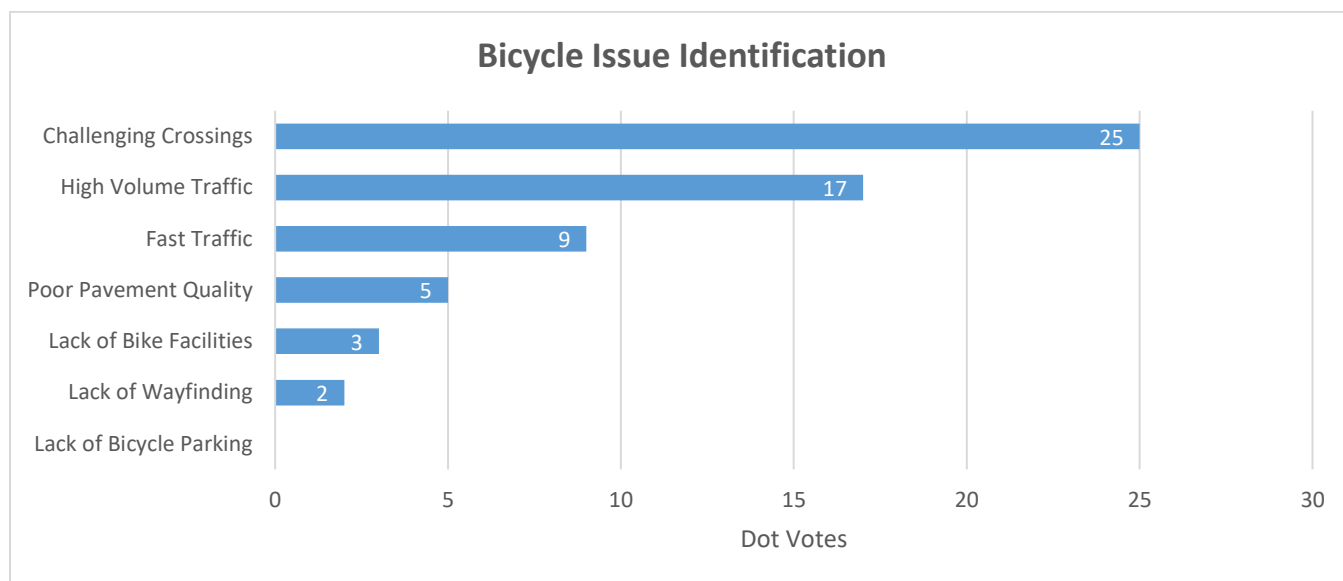
The following additional comments were also received:

- More cost-effective pedestrian overpasses instead of roundabouts; Elevators would encourage use.
- Believe curb extensions would help crossing and vehicle speeds.
- Put in flashing lights by Riverfront like they have at Gunderson.

---

## Bicycle Issue Identification

A total of 61 votes were cast on the pedestrian issue identification poster:

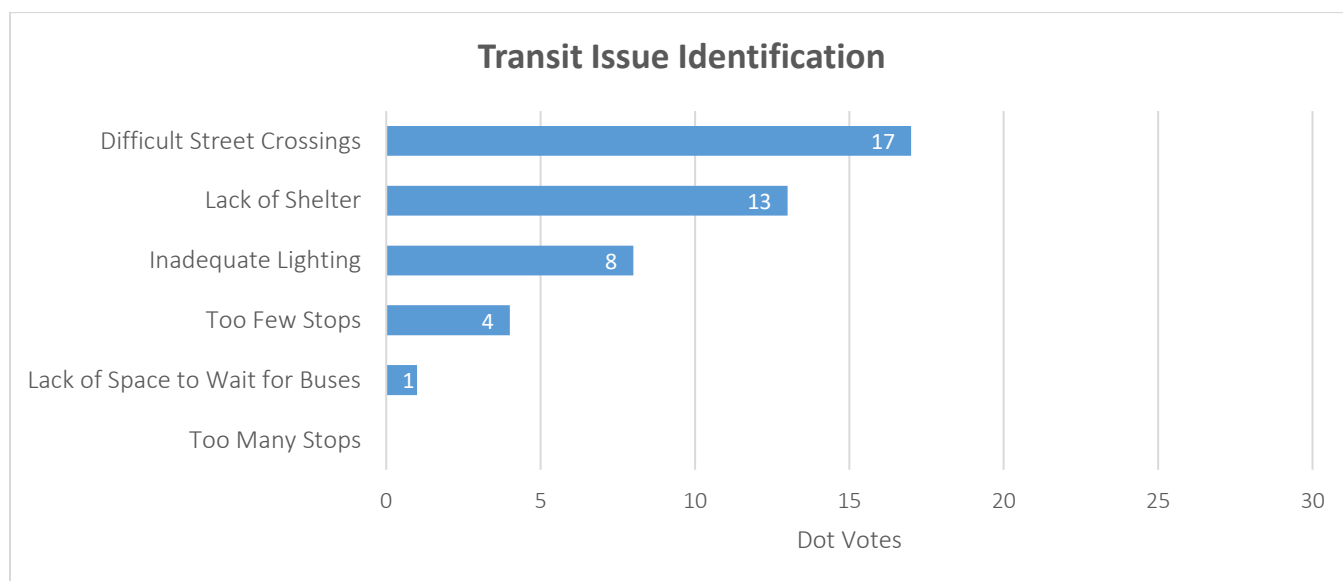


The following additional comments were also received:

- Enforce rules of the road for bicyclists. I would estimate that the majority of bicycle crashes are due to not following existing laws. Give out tickets.

## Transit Issue Identification

A total of 43 votes were cast on the pedestrian issue identification poster:



The following additional comments were also received:

- More available, affordable public transportation would probably reduce the number of cars on the street.

---

## General Comments

Comment forms were available for meeting attendees to complete. Below is a summary of comments received, as well as verbal comments noted by the project team. The comments have been grouped into similar subject areas.

### Roundabouts

- Roundabouts may be helpful with slowing traffic.
- Roundabouts may be problematic for large trucks accessing Trane and other businesses.
- Roundabouts are not safe and are expensive!
- Roundabouts are beneficial for safety and reducing congestion – keep traffic moving!
- No roundabouts.
- Roundabouts will not help and will back up traffic. (3)

### Transit

- More transit is needed at all times.

### Pedestrian

- It is impossible to cross South Avenue as a pedestrian without crossing at the lights.
- Intersection at Chase Street and South Avenue needs immediate attention like a RRFB.
- An easier and safer pedestrian crossing of South Avenue at 13<sup>th</sup> Place is needed.
- Consider pedestrian overpasses instead of roundabouts.
- Add more RRFBs for pedestrian crossings. (3)

### Bicycle

- There should be better bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area.
- Add a path along the railroad corridor that could connect under South Avenue to the VIP trail. (3)
- If a path is added along the RR corridor, there will be property impacts.
- Provide wider, multiuse sidewalks.
- Provide alternate routes for bicycles other than South Avenue.
- This is only a 0.9 mile corridor – no need for a bike trail.

### Traffic

- Slow traffic down.
- Traffic noise is a problem in the corridor, especially from large trucks accelerating from a stop.
- Provide clearer speed limit signs on South Avenue; consider radar signs with current speed.
- Enforce the speed limit! (2)
- Reduce the speed limit. (2)
- Provide hanging left turn signals for better visibility.

### Property

- Don't remove any existing properties. (4)

### Other

- General concerns over project costs and impacts on taxes.
- Access should be maintained along South Avenue.
- More trees and better streetscaping would be nice
- Consider one more controlled intersection.

---

## Summary of Public Input

The public input received at this meeting was primarily focused on design aspects of WisDOT's project, and issues relating to motor vehicle speed on South Avenue and difficulties pedestrians face while crossing South Avenue. There were comments related to bicycling, transit, and other issues, but they were not as pronounced as the pedestrian and traffic issues.

Comments relating to the design of South Avenue (roundabouts, property impacts) have been relayed to the WisDOT team. Additionally, recommendations of this project will attempt to mitigate some of the impacts that could result from specific WisDOT designs.