



30 Cedar Street East, P.O. Box K Annandale, MN 55302
Phone: 320-274-3055 Fax: 320-274-5728 www.annandale.mn.us

Request for Federal Community Project Funding

April 16, 2021

Project Name: Hemlock Intersection and Street Improvements

Total Project Cost: \$2,640,000

Secured State Funds: \$400,000 from the MN Transportation Enhancement Program

Project Description:

The City of Annandale is the lead agency for the proposed 2021 Hemlock Improvements which will include intersection improvements at Minnesota Trunk Highway 24 (TH 24) and Hemlock Street and road improvements on Hemlock Street from TH 24 to County Road 6.

The improvements were deemed necessary by the Annandale City Council and Corinna Township Board to provide key access to a new 40 unit Assisted Living Facility currently under construction by the Annandale Care Center, to address safety concerns with school traffic for Annandale Elementary and High School campuses and to improve a deteriorating road surface from TH 24 to County Road 6, which serves as a main collector for school and care center traffic and serves a 245-unit mobile home park.

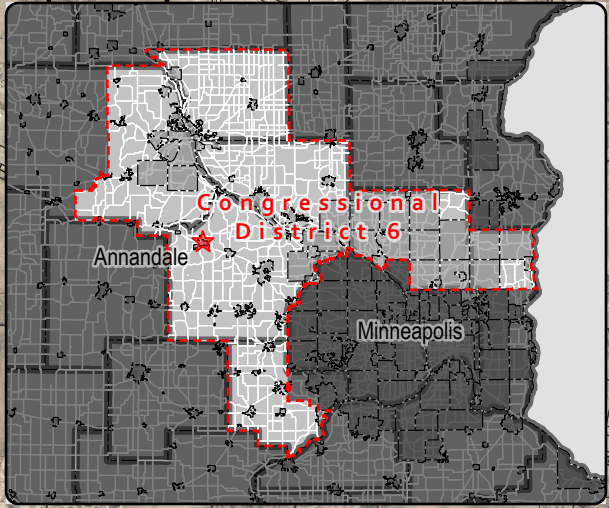
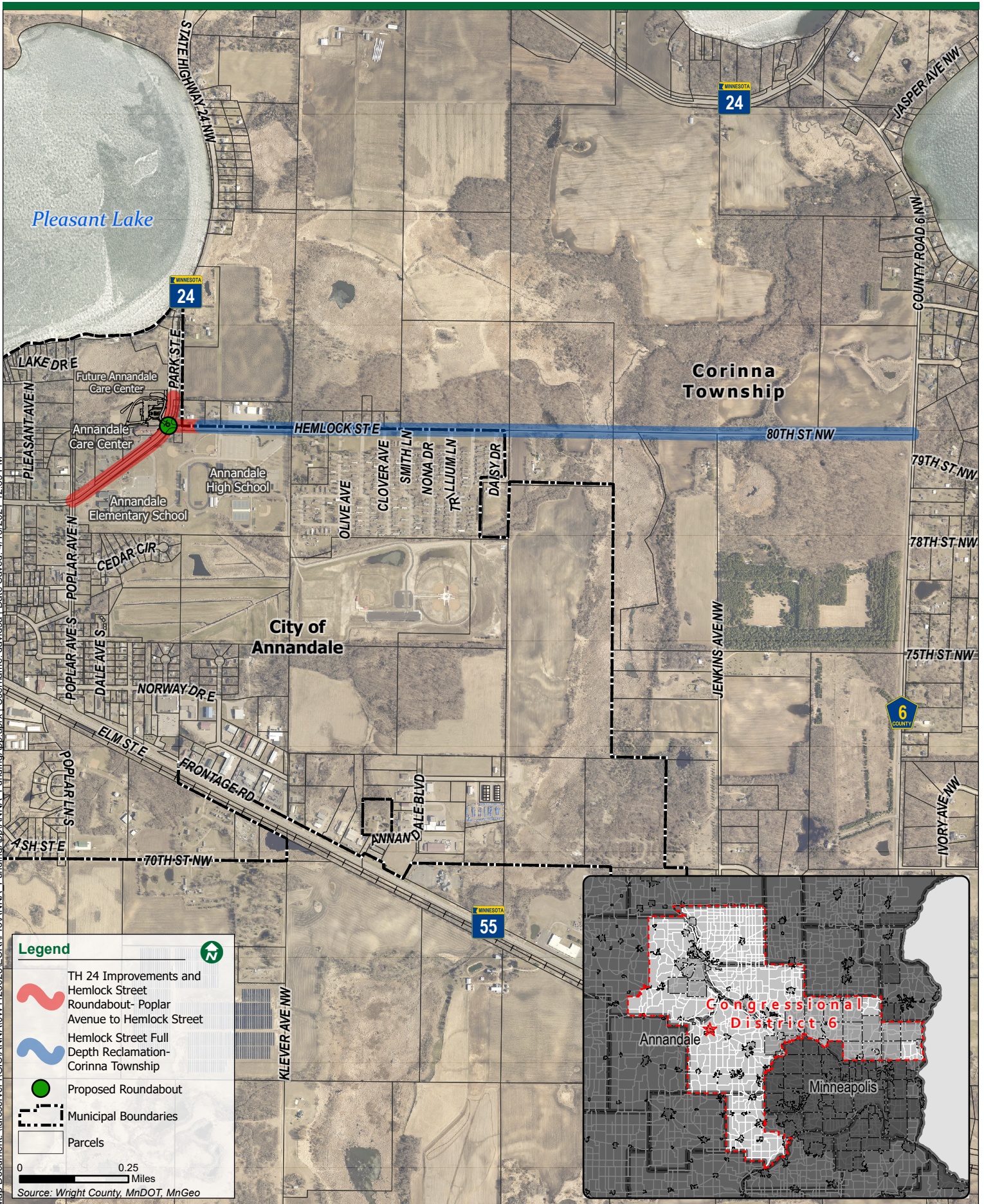
The project has been ordered by the City Council and is currently in the design phase. It is anticipated the plans and specifications will be complete in May of 2021 and the City will bid the project in June of 2021.

The City is requesting federal assistance to offset local costs with funding the improvement. Without federal funding, the project would be funded solely by the Annandale Care Center and the taxpayers of the Annandale School District, Corinna Township and City of Annandale.

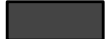



Requested Funding from Federal Community Project Funds: \$2,240,000

Attachments:

- Hemlock Improvement Project Map
- Hemlock Intersection Diagram
- MnDot State Transportation Improvement Program List
- Council Resolution Ordering Improvement
- Community Letters of Support
- Local News Articles



LEGEND

-  PROPOSED ROADWAY
-  RAISED CONC. MEDIAN, CURB & GUTTER
-  CONCRETE SIDEWALK
-  LANDSCAPING/GREEN SPACE

GENERAL NOTES

- ROUNDABOUT AND 3/4 INTERSECTION DESIGN FOOTPRINTS ASSUMES THE SALVAGING OF THE PAVEMENT DESIGN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO MITIGATE CONSTRUCTION COSTS.



Real People. Real Solutions.



FIGURE 1

**Approved 2021-2024 STIP
Adminstrative Modifications for the Period of 11/23/2020 - 3/18/21**

SP	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ATP/MPO	TYPE OF AMENDMENT	MPO/ATP APPROVAL DATE	STATE APPROVAL DATE	TOTAL COST BEFORE	TOTAL COST AFTER	CHANGE REASON
0603-16	Resurface and widen shoulders from Hwy 75 in Ortonville to Hwy 59, includes culvert replacements, bridge improvements and snow trap improvements	ATP 4-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/26/2021	3/1/2021	\$23,652,445	\$27,252,445	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS FOR A COST INCREASE. THIS PROJECT 100% STATE BOND FUNDED PROJECT WILL BE USING \$3,600,000 IN BOND FUNDS FROM DISTRICT C. THERE IS NO SCOPE CHANGE. THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS ON THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
5813-01	MN 48, 0.14 mi. E Jct County Road 173(Grace Rd) repair BR# 58001 over St. Croix river. Wisconsin is lead agency.	ATP 1-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/23/2021	3/1/2021	\$300,000	\$300,000	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO DEFER THIS 100% STATE FUNDED PROJECT FROM FY 2021 TO FY 2022 OF THE 2021-2024 STIP. THERE IS NO SCOPE CHANGE AND THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS ON THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
4110-14	Resurface Hwy 271 from Hwy 19 to Railroad Street in Hendricks. Resurface Hwy 271 from Maple Street in Hendricks to the Minnesota/South Dakota border.	ATP 8-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/23/2021	3/1/2021	\$3,100,000	\$2,100,000	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO ADVANCE THIS PROJECT FROM FY 2023 TO FY 2022. THE LETTING DATE HAS CHANGED AND THERE IS NO SCOPE CHANGE. DISTRICT 8 WILL ALIGN THIS FY 2022 PROJECT WITH THEIR PROGRAM AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT 2022-2025 STIP.
220-113-002	SARTELL 19TH AVE, FROM STEARNS CSAH 4 TO STEARNS CSAH 133, RECONSTRUCTION	St. Cloud ATP	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/12/2021	2/25/2021	\$4,799,920	\$7,037,903	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS FOR A PROJECT COST INCREASE. THE COST INCREASE IS ENTIRELY LOCAL FUNDS. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO FEDERAL FUNDS, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
034-602-037	Replace bridge over N Fork Crow River on CR 2, 0.5 miles S of Hwy 55	ATP 8-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/9/2021	2/25/2021	\$739,000	\$773,857	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO ADD AC AND ADVANCE THE PROJECT FROM FY 2023 TO FY 2021. THE BROS FUNDING REMAINS WITH AC PAYBACK IN FY 2023. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
034-602-037	Replace bridge over N Fork Crow River on CR 2, 0.5 miles S of Hwy 55	ATP 8-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	2/9/2021	2/25/2021	\$739,000	\$773,857	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO ADD AC AND ADVANCE THE PROJECT FROM FY 2023 TO FY 2021. THE BROS FUNDING REMAINS WITH AC PAYBACK IN FY 2023. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
8611-30	MN 24, Intersection improvements at Hemlock St in the City of Annandale	ATP 3-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	1/27/2021	2/25/2021	\$0	\$916,500	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO ADD A NEW 100% STATE FUNDED PROJECT TO FY 2021 OF THE 2021-2024 STIP. THE CITY OF ANNANDALE RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 OF TED FUNDING AND THE REMAINING \$516,500 IS LOCAL FUNDING. THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS ON THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
8611-30	MN 24, Intersection improvements at Hemlock St in the City of Annandale	ATP 3-Non Urban Area	ADMINISTRATIVE	1/27/2021	2/25/2021	\$0	\$916,500	THIS ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION IS TO ADD A NEW 100% STATE FUNDED PROJECT TO FY 2021 OF THE 2021-2024 STIP. THE CITY OF ANNANDALE RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 OF TED FUNDING AND THE REMAINING \$516,500 IS LOCAL FUNDING. THERE ARE NO FEDERAL FUNDS ON THIS PROJECT, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
0215-76	Replace 4 bridges and rehabilitate 2 bridges on US Hwy 10 from .25 miles East of Ferry Street to bridge over BNSF in Anoka and reconstruct MN47/US169 interchange, noise walls, construct auxiliary lanes and ADA improvements	Metropolitan Council	ADMINISTRATIVE	1/28/2021	2/23/2021	\$54,115,000	\$52,615,000	THIS MODIFICATION IS TO REDUCE THE TOTAL PROJECT COST, THE SCOPE REMAINS THE SAME. RELEASED BONDS OF \$1,500,000 WILL BE APPLIED TO NEW PROJECT SP 0215-92 FOR EARLY WORK REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT, NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED.
0215-92	Temp exit ramp off us 10 onto 7th Ave in Anoka	Metropolitan Council	ADMINISTRATIVE	1/28/2021	2/23/2021	\$0	\$1,500,000	THIS MODIFICATION IS TO ADD A NEW PROJECT INTO SFY 22 OF THE 21-24 STIP. PROJECT IS 100% BOND FUNDS PROVIDED FROM SP 0215-76, THEREFORE, FISCAL CONSTRAINT IS MAINTAINED

RESOLUTION ORDERING IMPROVEMENT AND PREPARATION OF PLANS

CITY OF ANNANDALE, MINNESOTA RESOLUTION NO. 2021-06

WHEREAS, a resolution of the city council adopted the 4th day of January, 2021, fixed a date for a council hearing on the proposed TH 24 & Hemlock Intersection Improvements Project, the proposed improvement along TH 24 from Poplar Avenue to approximately 300 feet north of Hemlock Street, at the Bendix Elementary TH 24 access, and improvements on Hemlock Street from TH 24 at Hemlock Street to approximately 375 feet east of the intersection, and

WHEREAS, ten days' mailed notice and two weeks' published notice of the hearing was given, and the hearing was held thereon on the 1st day of February, 2021, at which all persons desiring to be heard were given an opportunity to be heard thereon,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ANNANDALE, MINNESOTA:

1. Such improvement is necessary, cost-effective, and feasible as detailed in the feasibility report.
2. Such improvement is hereby ordered as proposed in the council resolution adopted the 4th day of January 2021.
4. Bolton & Menk, Inc. is hereby designated as the engineer for this improvement. The engineer shall prepare plans and specifications for the making of such improvement.
5. The city council declares its official intent to reimburse itself for the costs of the improvement from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds.

Adopted by the council this 1st day of February 2021.



City Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Wuollet, and upon vote being taken thereof: Honsey, Wuollet, Jonas, Grundy, Czycalla, and the following voted against the same: None

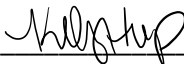
Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

STATE OF MINNESOTA CITY OF ANNANDALE COUNTY OF WRIGHT

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Annandale, Minnesota, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a full, true complete transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the City Council of said City, duly called and held on the date therein indicated, insofar as such minutes ordering improvement and preparation of plans.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said City this 1st day of February, 2021.

(SEAL)



City Administrator



30 Cedar Street East, P.O. Box K Annandale, MN 55302
Phone: 320-274-3055 Fax: 320-274-5728 www.annandale.mn.us

April 8, 2021

Congressman Tom Emmer
Washington D.C. Office
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Hemlock Intersection Improvements – City of Annandale

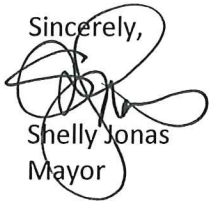
Dear Congressman Emmer,

Over the past 8 years, I have witnessed an increase in community need to improve the TH 24 and Hemlock Intersection in Annandale due to safety concerns with the Elementary and High School traffic. This past year, this improvement became additionally important to provide necessary access to the Care Center to construct a 40 unit assisted living facility that will address the City's senior housing needs.

The intersection improvement is located on TH 24 and is within State right-of-way. The State has identified this project as a priority, but due to funding limitations, was only able to provide 30% of the total project cost. This leaves the remaining 60% of project cost to be provided by the Annandale taxpayers.

The City appreciates considerations for assistance through the Federal Community Project Funding. These funds will allow the City to complete the improvement without creating additional burden to the City and School taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Shelly Jonas
Mayor

CORINNA TOWNSHIP

County of Wright
9801 Ireland Avenue, NW
ANNANDALE, MN 55302
Phone: (320) 274-8049
FAX: (320) 274-3792

April 8, 2021

Congressman Tom Emmer
Washington D.C. Office
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

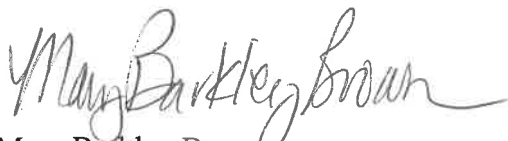
RE: Hemlock Intersection Improvements – City of Annandale – Corinna Township

Dear Congressman Emmer,

Corinna Township has identified the need to improve the roadway surface from Hemlock Street from TH 24 to County Road 6 in partnership with the City of Annandale. This road serves as a main collector for the Township and City that leads traffic to and from the School District and Care Center campuses. Due to the deteriorated roadway surface, an improvement is deemed necessary.

Corinna Township appreciates consideration for assistance through the Federal Community Project Funding. These funds will allow the City and Township to complete the improvement without creating additional burden to the City, Township and School taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Mary Barkley Brown
Township Clerk



Annandale Health & Community Services

500 Park Street East
Annandale, MN 55302

April 8, 2021

Congressman Tom Emmer
Washington D.C. Office
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Hemlock Intersection Improvements – City of Annandale

Dear Congressman Emmer,

Annandale Care Center, a skilled nursing facility, supports the City of Annandale's application for funding through the Federal Community Projects Funding. The proposed project will create an access to our proposed Care Center expansion which will create approximately 15 new jobs within the City of Annandale. Our facility will provide care for even more residents in need of assisted living. Our expansion project is currently underway and we expect to open the facility in fall of 2021.

Sincerely,

Deb Reitmeier, LNHA, LHSE
President/Administrator

Annandale Care Center

- Skilled Nursing
- Outpatient Therapy
- Wellness Center

Centennial Villa

- Independent Living
- Respite
- Memory Care
- Assisted Living

Phone: (320) 274-3737 • www.ahcsmn.org • Fax: (320) 274-3631



Annandale Public School District 876

Tim Prom, Superintendent - Email: tprom@isd876.org

125 Cherry Avenue North - P.O. Box 190 - Annandale, MN 55302 - Phone: 320-274-8226 - Fax:
320-274-5978

April 8, 2021

Congressman Tom Emmer
Washington D.C. Office
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Hemlock Intersection Improvements – City of Annandale

Dear Congressman Emmer,

The Annandale School District supports the City of Annandale's application for funding through the Federal Community Projects Funding. The proposed project will provide a significant safety improvement for the main access points into our Elementary and High School.

Like many districts, we have seen an increase in student drop offs and this has caused a great deal of congestion during the morning and afternoon time frames at the Elementary access on TH 24. We have been planning for multiple years on how to address this issue and we feel the installation of the roundabout is necessary to ensure that our families and students have safe access from both the elementary and high schools to TH 24.

Please contact me at 320-274-5602 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Prom
Superintendent, Annandale Public Schools
Phone: 320-274-5602
Email: tprom@isd876.org

Heart of the Lakes
Annandale
Area Chamber of Commerce

April 8, 2021

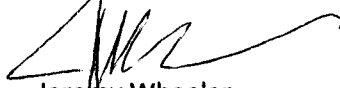
Congressman Tom Emmer
Washington D.C. Office
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Hemlock Intersection Improvements – City of Annandale

Dear Congressman Emmer,

The Annandale Chamber of Commerce supports the City of Annandale's application for funding through the Federal Community Projects Funding. The proposed project will provide a significant safety improvement for community by installing a roundabout at Hemlock and TH 24 intersections. This improvement is necessary to meet both local demand for assisted living housing options for our seniors and to accommodate the growth within our school system.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Wheeler
Chamber President

THE HEART OF THE LAKES NEWSPAPER

INSIDE



Check out Stan Tekiela's story on the nesting habits of Brown-headed Cowbirds on page 6.

Wright County residents high response to census

On page 3 see Wright County's response to the census by city and township.

New driver's manual section

There is a new section included in the driver's manual. See the story on page 3.

Dangers of speeding

Virgil Hawkins of Safe Communities wrote an editorial on the dangers of speeding. See page 4.

Lakers back at it

The Maple Lake Lakers are back in action. See the story on page 6.

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 Website: www.annandaleadvocate.com

Annandale Advocate
 Wednesday, July 8, 2020
 Volume 132, Number 28
 1 Section, 10 Pages



Chief Standafer and Officer Goff sworn in at city council meeting

By Tom Westman
 Staff Writer

The Annandale City Council held their July meeting Monday, July 6, 2020. The meeting was conducted at the Annandale City Hall, the first since March 11. Due to COVID-19, virtual meetings were held via Zoom.

A new Chief of Police

Peter Standafer, 42, was officially sworn in as the new Annandale Chief of Police at the March 2, Council meeting. The pinning ceremony was delayed due to COVID-19.

A pinning ceremony is performed the first upon graduating the police academy and the second each time the officer is promoted.

Herr, a great boss

The new Chief was pinned by Jeff Herr, the former Chief that recently retired. Herr served 28 years as an Annandale police officer and 20 years as chief.

"I have been so blessed to have had Jeff as a boss," Standafer said. "He set a standard of high expectations for himself and his department, I was always impressed with that."

"Even when speaking to him one-on-one he consistently demonstrated his integrity in making the right choice about a particular difficult situation. I am grateful to have had him as a role model of that caliber."

"If I can be the kind of leader he has been, I feel I will be successful as chief."

Work history

Standafer was hired as an officer in Annandale in 2006, but left a year later



Photos by Tom Westman

Above, former Police Chief Jeff Herr pins new Police Chief Peter Standafer at the City Council meeting on Monday, July 6. At right, Police Chief Peter Standafer swears in new Annandale police officer, Justin Goff.

for a job with the Wright County Sheriff's Office where he spent eight years.

Standafer returned to Annandale in 2014 and took on the dual role of police officer and serving as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Annandale School District.

Standafer was promoted to sergeant in January, 2018. As sergeant, he was second in command to Chief Herr. He also



provided first-line supervision of police officers, new employee training and employee mentoring.

SRO status

Standafer is going to wait until August to evaluate the filling of the School Resource Officer position, which he held for six years. "It is my understanding that the school district is going to be given guidance by the State at the end of July," Standafer said. "If there is only online learning we may not fill the position right away."

If the school district is planning to have the students back on campus, with Council approval he will post and fill the

SRO position. "We will try to have the new hire started by the beginning of school or shortly after," Standafer said. "I believe the role of the SRO is essential and it is very important to find the right person for the job."

Challenges ahead

"These are unprecedented times we are living in and this year has been tough on everyone," Standafer said. "Pandemics and political and racial tensions have added stress in people's lives."

"There is a palpable feeling of anxiety about the future in many people as to what might happen next."

Chief

Turn to page 3

ANNANDALE CITY COUNCIL

Three possible roundabouts to improve traffic flow

By Tom Westman
 Staff Writer

The Annandale City Council held their July regular meeting Monday, July 6, 2020. The meeting was conducted at the Annandale City Hall, the first since March 11. Due to COVID-19, virtual meetings were held via Zoom for the April, May and June meetings.

Roundabouts considered

The Annandale Care Center is proposing a 41 unit assisted living facility on the 10 acre property north of the current campus.

The plan approved by the Annandale Planning Commission earlier this year proposed access off Hwy. 24 with the front entrance facing east, with a secondary access to the rear from Poplar Avenue.

At the May Council meeting it was learned that MnDot was not eager allow the access off Hwy. 24, but was willing to consider that access if a round-about was installed at the intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hemlock.

At the May meeting the Council approved a proposal, from City Engineer Jared Voge, to prepare a study and report on the improvements necessary for the Highway 24 access to be granted for the

proposed facility. The cost for Voge to prepare that information was not to exceed \$15,630.

"The roundabouts are a solution identified to move forward with an access to Highway 24 for the Care Center project," Voge said. "An access on Hwy. 24 at Hemlock is the location preferred for the project. I believe the project could move forward with an alternate access although it would be less desirable. The project could still move forward without the roundabouts."

Voge's study proposes that two roundabouts be installed. One at the intersection of Hwy 24 (Park) and Hemlock, the other at the intersection of Park and the entrance to Annandale Elementary.

The study also proposes that a long term solution may be a round-about at the intersection of Park and Poplar.

"We are not seeking approval for the round-about at Poplar at this time," Voge said. "To achieve the goal of providing access to the Care Center and improving

traffic operations in the vicinity of the school, the Poplar-Park roundabout is not required."

The first step will be MnDOT approving the report and granting access for the Care Center at the Hemlock intersection.

"The access will be conditioned upon the roundabouts at Hemlock and the school," Voge said. "Following that, discussions among the project partners will be held regarding the funding associated with the improvements."

Ideally MnDOT's approval of the access and the conversations with the partners would be presented to the City Council in August.

"However, that is the best case scenario," Voge said. "The process to accomplish those steps may require additional time beyond August."

Traffic

Turn to page 10

Kenzie Ergen Hero Veterinary Nurse Award nominee

By Tom Westman
 Staff Writer

Annandale's Kenzie Ergen, is one of five finalists in the competition for the American Humane's 2020 Hero Veterinary Nurse Award.

Ergen has lived in the Annandale area her entire life and graduated from Annandale High School in 2010. Kenzie is currently employed at Lifelong Veterinary Clinic in Hutchinson.

"My nomination for the 2020 Veterinary Nurse Hero Award is a big honor," Kenzie said. "I am so grateful for my co-workers, as they have made me a better veterinary nurse."



Submitted photo

Above, is Kenzie Ergen, an lifetime Annandale resident and 2020 Annandale High School graduate, with her two dogs Harbor and Chevy. Ergen is a nationwide finalist for the 2020 Hero Veterinary Nurse Award.

Ergen

Turn to page 9

Sylvia and Louisa opens downtown

By Tom Westman
 Staff Writer

Sylvia and Louisa is a new boutique that has opened in downtown Annandale. Located at 15 Cedar Street East, next to the In Hot Water Coffee Shop, the boutique was opened by two Annandale entrepreneurs Sarah Onstad and Missy Hardin.

Living a boutique dream

The two owners met a year ago at their sons basketball camp and they have been friends ever since.

Onstad has lived on Lake Louisa two years and Hardin on Lake Sylvia for one year, thus the name of the store.



Photo by Erin Ogilvie Photography

Sylvia

Turn to page 9

Above, at left, are Sarah Onstad and Missy Hardin.

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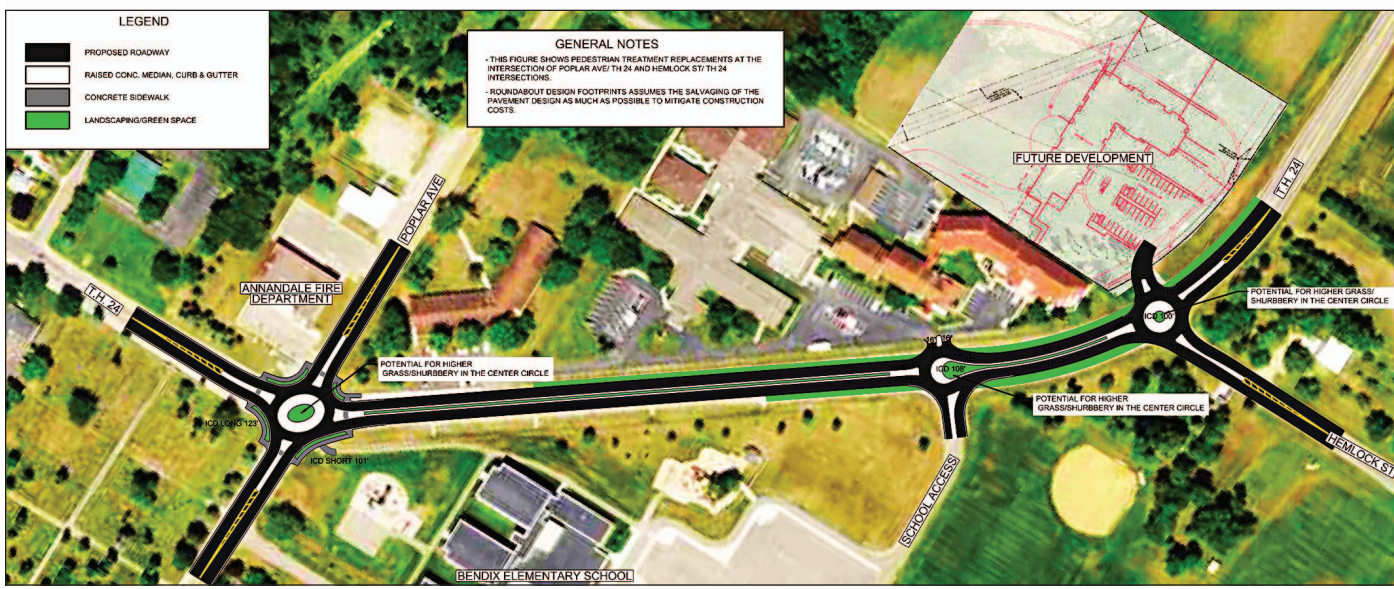
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Submitted photo

The picture, prepared by Annandale City Engineer Jared Voge, Bolton and Menk, shows three roundabouts that will allow access to Hwy. 24 for the proposed Annandale Care Center Assisted Living Facility (labeled future development in the upper right hand corner.) The City has proposed two MnDot roundabouts at the intersection of Hemlock and Hwy. 24 and the intersection of the entrance to Annandale Elementary and Hwy. 24. The two roundabouts would not only provide access to the Care Center facility, it would also solve some of the traffic issues coming and going from Annandale Elementary School. The round-about shown at the intersection of Poplar and Hwy. 24 is a possibility for the future and is not proposed by the City at this time.

Traffic

From page 1

Other business

The Council unanimously approved the renewal of all 22 liquor licenses upon payment of the license fees and State of Minnesota approval effective from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

The Council unanimously approved a compensation study for employees of the City of Annandale.

According to Administrator Kelly Hinnenkamp, the City maintains a pay structure by position to serve as a guide for assigning staff wages.

The pay structure consists of 10 steps within each pay range for each position. An employee is appointed at a step based on experience and qualifications at the time of hire and then advances a step each year until they reach step 10.

The City reviews the pay structure annually for cost of living adjustments needed as part of the budget approval process. The Personnel Committee additionally reviews the City's pay structure to ensure the Annandale is staying competitive within each position.

The impact of the compensation study would be 1.5 percent of the City's total wages.

"The approval of the compensation study does not approve pay increases," Hinnenkamp said. "It only sets the wage scales for our positions."

"Any pay increases approved for staff is determined through the budget process each year in the fall."

The Council approved the following appointment of election judges for the 2020 primary and general election: Sue Ann Solberg, Barbara Strand,

Sharon Peterson, Lonnie Baack, Misty Ferrell, James Franzen, Tara Smith, Joann Quandt, Margaret Strand, Nikki Seaberg, Margaret Schumacher, Jen Holm and Kelly Hinnenkamp, Head Judge.

The Council tabled a motion to direct City staff to receive two quotes to repair Hemlock Road.

This is a shared road and expenses would be split between Annandale and Corinna Township. The approximate cost is estimated at \$160,000.

"The project was not budgeted for 2020," Hinnenkamp said. "However, if the Council wishes to make this improvement the City would cover our costs through the street fund and also include the costs as part of the 2020 Improvement Project."

Hinnenkamp indicated a special meeting will be necessary to approve the quotes and agreement with Corinna Township if the project is to be completed by the start of the school year.

The Council postponed action on improvements to the City's compost site.

Annandale operates a com-

post site for city residents only and the site has been minimal to maintain.

"It used to be that we could get someone to come in to chip up the branches and remove it for free," said Public Works Director Joe Haller. "It is getting more and more expensive each year."

Haller is certain that more and more non-residents are using the compost site.

"The pile out there is huge, there is no way that it all comes from Annandale people," Haller said.

Haller would like to see the City consider options that allow for more control of the access to the facility. He is proposing the installation of a gated fence that would limit who can access the compost site. All Annandale residents would be issued a code to access the facility on a keypad to get in and out. The cost to implement this is \$21,445 to \$28,105 depending on the length of the fence.

The Council indicated they would take up the proposal at a special meeting.

The Council approved awarding a quote from Pole

Painting Plus for the painting of the existing 99 Annandale street lights.

Pole Painting Plus' bid came in at \$180 per pole. The second is from B&B Painting was the amount of \$345 per pole.

The work is included as part of the 2020 project but is not included as part of the MnDot project.

All of the street lights will be removed to off-site for the painting during the street construction.

The Council approved an upgrade of lighting for the City Park Pavilion and a Public Works storage building. There is currently an Xcel Energy rebate option available that will expire the end of October 2020.

Up next

The next Annandale City Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, at the Annandale City Hall. Yet to be determined is a date and time for a special meeting to prior to the August meeting.

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POLL: MAY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

NEWS TICKER > [April 7, 2021] Legal Notices – April 7, 2021 > LEGAL NOTICES

HOME > NEWS > Traffic at AES remains a concern

Traffic at AES remains a concern

February 7, 2017 13623pwpadmin News 0



Morning traffic congestion at Annandale Elementary School was a topic of conversation at the school board meeting on Monday, Jan. 23.

From 7:50 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. parents dropping their kids off at AES cause some traffic delays getting in and out of the school's parking lot.

There is only one way out of the AES parking lot. Cars are often lined up on State Highway 24 waiting to make a right or left turn into the parking lot and at the same time cars are lined up waiting for a chance to make a left or right turn onto Highway 24.

"State Highway 24 is the primary way in and out of town to the north," said Superintendent Steve Niklaus. "Add to that many students driving to Annandale High School from the west are slowing down to make the turn onto Hemlock. This causes congestion for those seeking to exit AES."

Possible solutions

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Annandale, MN 55302

Weather	Wind	Rain	Sun	Moon	UV
32 °F			W Wind 11.5mph		
Rain/Snow					
32 °F		36 °F			
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School Board member Katie Jones attended a recent parent meeting at AES where the traffic problem was discussed.

"We basically discussed the traffic congestion of the parking lot," Jones said. "We all agreed that it is an issue and we need to look at different options to address the issue."

School board member Jon Scheer asked it would be possible to only allow right turns out of the parking lot just before and just after the school day.

"We looked for a solution that would provide a second way out of AES," Niklaus said. "This would involve moving vehicles to the bus road at the rear of the building. There was uncertainty as to whether this would help or maybe just move the problem elsewhere, as people would be exiting on to Poplar. There was also concern about safety for buses and students if vehicle traffic were mixed before and after school."

The school district has looked at placing a law enforcement officer or school employee out directing traffic.

"This was considered not to be an option due to the high volume of traffic on a state highway," Niklaus said. "It would be similar to putting someone on Highway 55 each day during busy times."

Earlier this year Annandale Elementary Principal Jon Klippenes spent a few days wearing a yellow neon vest and trying to direct the traffic. Klippenes was advised by local police that the activity was dangerous and he was not allowed to do it.

"We can't provide a police officer on a daily basis to provide traffic control on a state highway," said Annandale Police Chief Jeff Herr.

Niklaus also pointed out that putting in another road would be a significant expenditure.

"It is challenging to spend a lot of money to correct a problem that exists for about 15 minutes each morning," Niklaus said. "That is why MnDOT does not view the area to be worthy of traffic lights or a roundabout. The problem is not extensive in terms of time."

Niklaus indicated that estimates from engineers suggest a roundabout would cost more than \$1 million.

"MnDOT would not pay for it, because the traffic flow is not sufficient throughout the day and night to justify it," Niklaus said. "It would be totally a school district expense."

One solution offered that would not cost the school district any money would be to have more kids ride the free bus transportation provided by the district rather than parents dropping their kids off at school.

Another solution would be for parents to drop their kids off earlier, when there is not as much congestion.

"Many parents would like to find a solution to this as it can be a disruption to their day," Niklaus said. "These solutions, however, are what people want everyone else to do, but they don't work for them at this busy time of a family's day."

Niklaus has indicated that staff would be presenting cost estimates for doing an engineer's study of the traffic problem and possible solutions at the Monday, Feb. 27, school board meeting.

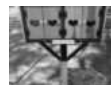


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POLL: MAY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

NEWS TICKER > [April 7, 2021] Flying high ▶ NEWS

HOME > NEWS > Contract approved, traffic discussed

Contract approved, traffic discussed

March 7, 2017 13623pwpadmin News 0



The Annandale School Board approved a new employment contract with the district's athletics and activities director, discussed traffic issues at the elementary school and more during its regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 27, at Annandale Elementary School.

One of the main items of business during the meeting was to approve a new contract for Luke MacLean, the district's director of athletics and activities.

Highlights of MacLean's contract include the following:

- Director is an employee at will in ISD 876
- 220 duty days per year
- Salary: \$75,521 for 2016-17 and \$77,866 for 2017-18
- \$13,861 per year towards health insurance premiums
- \$1,000 per year towards dental insurance premiums
- An annual contribution of \$2,000 to a post-retirement health care savings account.
- Twelve sick leave days per year, maximum accumulation of 150 days.

Traffic at AES

At the Monday, Jan. 23, school board meeting the morning traffic problem at Annandale Elementary School was discussed.

After hearing from the board, Superintendent Steve Niklaus agreed to look into the cost of having an engineering firm give the board a recommendation for a possible solution.

The problem is that from 7:50 to 8:05 a.m. parents dropping their kids off at AES cause significant traffic delays getting in and out of the school's parking lot. There is only one way out of the AES parking lot. Cars are often lined up on State Highway 24 waiting to make a right or left turn into the parking lot and at the same time cars are lined up waiting for a chance to make a left or right turn onto Highway 24.

"In days with bad weather, the traffic problems get much worse," said AES Principal Jonathon Klippenes. "Some parents are delayed in the line as much as 20 minutes before they are able to drop off their children."

WEATHER

Annandale, MN 55302

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AHS Principal Scot Kerbaugh indicated that the high school students are often late for school on days they are delayed dropping siblings off at AES.

Niklaus indicated that staff had looked into constructing a one-way road from the AES parking lot to AJ Way, the road buses use between the high school and elementary.

At AJ Way, traffic could turn left and go to the high school, or turn right to exit on the south side of AES to Poplar. There would be a car lane and a bus lane on the south side of the building. Cars would exit onto Poplar by either going right or left.

"We thought it sounded like a pretty good idea, until we talked to the bus company," Niklaus said. "They strongly oppose mixing car traffic with bus traffic on the south side of AES."

"You have to remember that we designed the elementary school like we did to get the cars away from the buses," said board member Jon Scheer.

Niklaus indicated that getting an engineering firm to offer a recommendation of a solution would cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000.

"I would not support paying a consultant fee when we have no money for a solution," said Board Chair Jeannette Rieger-Borer.

The discussion led to the board wondering if it could restrict access to a right turn only from the AES parking lot to Highway 24 during the morning drop-off time.

Board member Katie Howard Jones indicated that in Maple Lake signs are posted indicating left hand turns are not allowed during school hours onto Highway 55.

Rieger-Borer asked Niklaus to look into getting permission to put such a sign limiting left-hand turns for cars coming out of AES.

Niklaus indicated that he would check into the possibilities with MNDOT.

Achievement-integration

Jessica Ellingson presented a proposed budget of \$109,993.68 to implement Annandale's Achievement and Integration plan for the 2017-18 school year. The board unanimously approved Ellingson's budget proposal.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education:

"The purpose of the Achievement and Integration for Minnesota program is to pursue racial and economic integration, increase student achievement, create equitable educational opportunities, and reduce academic disparities based on students' diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds in Minnesota public schools."

Ellingson also outlined for the Board the following goals for the next three years:

- Goal No. 1: Annandale School District will increase reading proficiency as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) III by 3 percent each year from June 2016, the baseline, through June 2020.
- Goal No. 2: Underserved students in the Annandale School District will increase their math proficiency as measured by the MCA III by 3 percent each year from June 2016, the baseline, through June 2020.
- Goal No. 3: Annandale School District will show an improvement in student engagement by an increase of one survey indicator mark as measured by a student engagement survey completed in June 2016, the baseline, and in June 2020.

Ellingson pointed to the following efforts to achieve the Achievement-Integration plan goals:

- Literacy-diversity coach position
- Family liaison position
- Reading and math intervention classes or leveled classes where appropriate
- Professional development in content literacy, culturally responsive instruction and educational equity



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- Extend enrichment opportunities to include our under-served students through classroom collaborative efforts with St. Cloud schools

- Develop student leadership skills through collaborative partnerships with St. Cloud.

Capital budget

Niklaus indicated that ordinarily staff would seek the board's consideration of capital facility and equipment expenditures in January and February.

"The timing of these recommendations and consideration for approval was significant to allow contractors to schedule projects to be completed over the summer vacation from school," Niklaus said.

This year, however, district staff is delaying the request for approval 2017-18 capital budget to the March or maybe the April meeting.

"The reason for this delay is the importance of presenting a comprehensive list of all major expenditures that need consideration over the next five years," Niklaus said. "The new long-term facilities revenue will assist our district with completing many projects that otherwise would have been unaffordable."

Niklaus indicated that decisions need to be made which prioritize expenditures to the greatest facility and equipment needs.

Coaching resignation

The board accepted the resignations of three coaches of the Annandale gymnastics team, head coach Danielle Leinonen and assistant coaches Kelsy Hogie and Jen Mitchell.

"I think I am going to back down being head coach next year," Leinonen said. "I don't think it will work for me due to being a full-time student and having a full-time job. I think you should open the coaching spot and whoever gets it, I am willing to help out when I can."

Activities Director MacLean will be advertising for the positions.

"The gymnastics program at AHS has experienced declining student numbers for the past several years," Niklaus said. "There are a number of reasons for this, from a lack of year-round practice space to the fact that many excellent gymnasts choose to participate in 'club' competition and bypass the high school gymnastic teams."

Niklaus indicated that if competent and qualified coaches cannot be found, consideration might be given to dropping the sport or finding neighboring schools who may consider pairing in gymnastics.

Kraemer resigns

The board accepted the resignation of Wanda Carry Kraemer, a biology teacher at AHS.

"She was an outstanding teacher in the district for 20 years," Niklaus said.

Kraemer was hired in 1995, but for the past two years she has been on extended leave of absence while working at St. Cloud State University in the education department.

"My husband and I have determined that it is best for our family to have more of my focus on them in the coming years," Kraemer said in her resignation letter to the board. "I can't tell you enough how thankful I am to be able to say that I spent 20 years teaching in a community where teachers are respected and supported."

Upcoming meetings

- Eight candidates for the superintendent position will be interviewed between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, and Wednesday, March 8, at the Annandale Elementary School Community Education Room. The public is invited to attend.



PHOTO REPRINTS



POLL: MAY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

NEWS TICKER > [April 7, 2021] Leslie H. Clark > OBITUARIES

HOME > > Few answers to traffic conundrum

Few answers to traffic conundrum

October 25, 2017 13623pwpadmin Uncategorized 0



The Annandale Elementary School building is already in its fifth year of operation, and has drawn rave reviews with one exception: the traffic problems that occur each school-day morning trying to get in and out of the school's only entrance from State Highway 24.

That topic drew the most discussion Monday, Oct. 16, at a joint meeting of the Annandale School Board and the Annandale City Council at city hall.

Mayor Dwight (Dewey) Gunnarson raised the subject by asking if the issue was perceived or real, and that he did not think it was out of the realm of possibility to state that going in and out of the elementary parking lot before school starts is somewhat chaotic, and could even be termed dangerous.

"We're definitely aware of it, and it's a concern," said school board member Jennifer Mealey. "But as we try to problem-solve it, you run into roadblocks. There's no perfect fix to it."

Traffic can get clogged inside the parking area when drivers drop off children, particularly when vehicles stop immediately in front of the school door rather than pulling a few car-lengths past the door to allow for more vehicles to stop at the same time.

"Pull ahead," school board member Jon Scheer said in advice to parents who drop off kids. "It's crucial to get them all the way up."

Contributing to the logjam of entering and exiting the school entrance is the stream of vehicles heading toward the high school at that time. The high school is located on Hemlock Street, which is the next exit to the north on Highway 24 from the elementary school.

Scheer, responding to a question about creating separation between the starting times for the two schools, said that had been considered.

"We're big, but not big enough," he said of the school's enrollment.

School board member Katie Jones said the time from 7:55 to 8:10 a.m. has been identified as having the worst congestion.

"I would never go (there) at 7:55," she said.

Both Jones and Gunnarson said a better option would be to drop off a child early and have them wait at school, which opens its doors at 7:40 expressly for that purpose.

"My experience was you get there earlier, there's no problem," Gunnarson said.

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Annandale, MN 55302

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City council member Cory Czycalla said he often drops off his preschooler around 8:05.

"This year has been better. I really haven't had to wait that much - maybe a minute the other day," he said, admitting that a minute waiting to move in a vehicle often seems longer.

Alternatives explored

It is not unusual for vehicles to be backed up on Highway 24 waiting to turn into the elementary school lot, or vehicles lined up waiting for an opportunity to turn left or right onto Highway 24.

The fact that the elementary school entrance sits along Highway 24 limits the school's options. For instance, having someone such as a school employee or law enforcement officer direct traffic would not be allowed on a state highway with a high volume of traffic that is also the primary way in and out of Annandale to the north.

There was talk of creating a dropoff area for students on Poplar Avenue, allowing parents to completely avoid the logjam at the school lot.

"That might just be moving the problem," said city council member Shelly Jonas.

City Administrator Kelly Hinnenkamp tossed out the idea of switching the direction buses travel in the area that is restricted to buses behind the school. But Jonas pointed out that would mean children would be getting out on the opposite side of the bus from the school building, and that would be a safety concern.

The school board had looked at allowing both cars and buses to use the one-way road behind the school, but found strong opposition to mixing vehicle traffic into the bus dropoff area.

Right turn only

Restricting vehicles leaving the elementary school to making only a right turn during the morning rush hour was resurrected as a possible solution. It had been brought up at a school board meeting this year.

"I think that is the best idea I've heard," school board member Paul Zabinski said of the right-turn-only plan.

Other schools, such as Maple Lake, restrict turns during peak traffic times.

One of the drawbacks of forcing drivers to make a right turn, as Czycalla observed, is there is not another access point to get back into town.

"Right-turn only is only going to push that problem out," Hinnenkamp said. "It will create an illegal roundabout."

Of course the best way to improve traffic would be to have more students take the bus rather than be dropped off by their parents.

"All of us taxpayers pay a lot of money for busing," Scheer said. "There's not one area of this district not serviced by a bus."

Meeting with MnDOT

School officials met with representatives of the Minnesota Department of Transportation this fall, to go through its options. They were very limited, considering that the school lot feeds onto a state highway.

"They came out here and said here are the different options. We're not going to let you have another exit or entrance, so you'll have to work with the ones you have," elementary school Principal Jon Klippenes told the Advocate last week.

He said MnDOT did not feel that a stoplight or a right-turn-only requirement would be beneficial, and that turning that intersection into a roundabout would cost close to \$1 million.

That would be a costly solution to a problem that seems to only rear its head for about a 15- to 20-minute window on school-day mornings.

"We don't have as many problems in the afternoon," Klippenes said. That is probably due to taking the commuter traffic out of the picture in the afternoon window, and high school students get out of school



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later than the elementary lets out.

The DOT said a mini-roundabout might be an option, and the school could look into whether grants could help pay for anything, Klippenes said. But their top suggestion was for the school to undertake a traffic study.

At a meeting in early 2017, former Superintendent Steve Niklaus had looked into hiring an engineering firm. But school board Chairperson Jeannette Rieger-Borer said at the time she did not support paying thousands of dollars to a consultant when the district could not afford spending the money it would take to solve the problem.

What to do

With the community continuing to grow, Gunnarson said traffic will likely increase.

Although it is ostensibly a school issue, it impacts many within the city, and Hinnenkamp reminded those at the meeting that it needs to be taken seriously by all.

"The last thing we want is for people to think we don't think it's an issue," she said.

That is not the case, school Superintendent Tim Prom assured her.

"This isn't falling on deaf ears. We're going to continue to work together to find the best solution we can with this."

Klippenes pointed out that the school has looked at various options and held numerous discussions, coming up with some solutions.

A few years ago the exit lane was widened, he said. They open the school early to widen the window for parents to drop off their children. They have three people in the morning and two in the afternoon providing traffic control through the parking lot and drop-off zone.

"If families would come from 7:40 to 7:50, they can come right through," Klippenes said. But the volume of traffic during the window from about 7:50 to 8:10 – which can expand during adverse weather conditions – limits what measures can be taken to alleviate the traffic jams.

Klippenes has sent out information on the issue – basic reminders of what parents can do such as pulling up to the next car, following signals of traffic directors, and times to avoid the worst congestion – in emails and the school's monthly newsletter. He is also working on getting that information posted on the school's website, www.isd876.org.

Mealey said during the meeting that the district's traffic tips to parents could include a reminder that even though a student did not start the school year riding the bus, it is not too late to do so.

Five years into the issue, it does not appear as if any one person can wave a magic wand to wish it away. Instead, improving traffic congestion during that brief morning window will only come if parents will act collectively, doing what they are able to lessen the pressure that is placed on that stretch of Highway 24.



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