



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

For Release: August 27, 2020

Contact: State Senator Janis Ringhand: (608) 266-2253; Sen.Ringhand@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Don Vruwink: (608) 266-3790; Rep.Vruwink@legis.wisconsin.gov

Department of Transportation Releases US 12 Whitewater Bypass Road Safety Audit

Last year after several serious accidents including two fatal crashes at the intersection Highway 12 and Walworth Avenue, local leaders met with the Department of Transportation to discuss what needs to be done to improve safety at the intersection. The Department of Transportation conducted a study and has released its final recommendations. Among the Department's recommendations for the Walworth Ave intersection are:

- WisDOT plans to upgrade the traffic signal equipment in 2020.
- Continue to monitor intersection, specifically the northbound left-turn movement. Consider protected-only left-turn phasing for the northbound left-turn movement if the crash problem returns.
- Utilize portable video cameras to assess the adequacy of the turn lane lengths to accommodate peak queues.

"I'd like to thank the Department of Transportation for their work on making the Walworth Avenue intersection safer and also for evaluating the safety of the bypass between Walworth Avenue to Cox Road. Ultimately, I believe that the bypass should be made four lanes but in the meantime the improvements recommended by the department are welcome," said Senator Ringhand.

Last August in order to address immediate safety concerns, the Department of Transportation put a flashing yellow arrow light on the problematic left turn lane drivers on Highway 12 use to get to Walworth Avenue.

"The flashing yellow lights have greatly improved the safety of this intersection," stated Representative Vruwink who added that "there hasn't been a serious crash since the flashing yellow arrow lights were added."

Here is a link to complete report: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/15/ringhand/media/1218/us-12-whitewater-bypass-rsa-august-19-2020-final.pdf>

###