

ALDERPERSON AGENDA ITEM MEMO

To: Transportation Affairs Committee

From:

Robin Brannin, District 3 Alderperson
Amanda Fuerst, District 7 Alderperson
Mike Morgan, District 7 Alderperson

Date: December 14, 2023

Subject: Addition of a multi-use path along 116th Street connecting Watertown Plank Road to Center Street.

A. Background/Rationale

116th Street is a connector roadway in the City of Wauwatosa. It is one of the main north-south connections on the western side of the city for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.

The structure of the current road consists of two driving lanes with striped parking lanes on both sides of the street. The current design is considered very wide for a residential street.

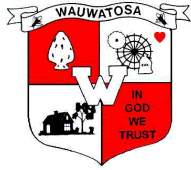
While the current road structure is conducive to vehicular traffic, it is not safe for pedestrians or cyclists. There is no off-street sidewalk or multi-use path. There is road striping for bike sharrows within the parking lanes.

B. Key Issues for Consideration

Three major projects being completed in the upcoming years, warrant the addition of a multi-use path to be added to 116th Street, connecting Watertown Plank Road to Center Street.

1. Construction of the new 116th Street Park will be completed in Fall 2024. The project already includes a multi-use path along the eastern side of 116th Street from Gilbert Avenue to the existing sidewalk on the Wauwatosa Police Department property. This will create an off-street path stretching from Gilbert Avenue to Walnut Road.
2. Center Street pavement project extending from 114th Street to 117th Street is being completed in 2024. This project includes on-street bicycle lanes, curb extensions, replacement of sidewalk on the north side of the street to a multi-use path and a raised median.
3. Watertown Plank Road and 115th Street are proposed construction projects in 2025 CIP, including a connection to the Oak Leaf Trail to Underwood Elementary. These projects includes the addition of multi-use paths.

The combination of all three projects, creates an opportunity to create a complete multi-use pathway that connects each project and allows our residents to travel safely between the neighborhoods, connecting Eisenhower Elementary School, Wauwatosa West High School, Whitman Middle School, 116th Street Park and the Oak Leaf Trail and Underwood Elementary School. This project would create safe off-street connections from our two West side elementary schools to the new 116th Street Park.



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C. Fiscal Impact

To be determined by the Engineering Department

D. Requested Action

1. Pass a resolution approving the creation of a multi-use path to be created along 116th Street, connecting Watertown Plank Road to Center Street.
2. Direct city staff to explore options for having this project added to the CIP, with construction no later than 2028.

E. Attachments