

## Misty Richey

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**Subject:** FW: [External] 2025 Watertown Plank and 115th Street project

**From:** Ryan Carlson <[carlsonrd@outlook.com](mailto:carlsonrd@outlook.com)>

**Date:** January 28, 2024 at 7:01:03 AM CST

**To:** Robin Brannin <[rbrannin@wauwatosa.net](mailto:rbrannin@wauwatosa.net)>

**Subject:** [External] 2025 Watertown Plank and 115th Street project

Robin,

Thanks for sharing the conceptual designs for the Watertown Plank and 115<sup>th</sup> street project. I hope the design is fully adopted.

Controlled street crossings and the ability to travel via foot and bicycle on both the north and south sides of Watertown Plank would be a great benefit to the district and the city of Wauwatosa. I look forward to safer connections to the Oak Leaf Trail, the new 116<sup>th</sup> Street park, and the rest of the community.

Ryan Carlson  
1025 N 122<sup>nd</sup> Street

## Misty Richey

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**Subject:** FW: [External] Proposed Watertown Plank Project

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**From:** I marks <[markscse@yahoo.com](mailto:markscse@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 7:29:00 PM

**To:** Robin Brannin; Joseph Makhoul II

**Cc:** Dennis McBride

**Subject:** [External] Proposed Watertown Plank Project

Dear Alderwoman Brannin and Alderman Makhoul,

Thank you Alderwoman Brannin for posting this issue on Facebook and the opportunity to provide feedback. I own two properties in your district, 1005-1007 N. 119th and 1604 N. 117th.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 2025 plan for Watertown Plank Road. This project has adverse impacts on residents of each property listed above.

When the residents who live at the SE and SW corner of 119<sup>th</sup> & Watertown Plank Rd. park on the street, it makes it almost impossible to turn safely either east or west into traffic onto Watertown Plank Rd. One of my tenants is a teacher, she does not have the ability to work from home as most of the individuals living in Fisherwoods, she is teaching their children. The other tenant works from home 2-3 days per week, but still must drop her child off at the Montessori school each morning. I am fortunate and can work from home most of the time, and when I do go into the office I leave in the early hours of the morning before the stoplights are working. I do, however, go to the Underwood Parkway side of Watertown Plank often to check on my elderly neighbors, tenants, and friends who live on that side. Many of the people on that side of Watertown Plank need the ability to leave that neighborhood safely, not hampered by additional parking and reduced traffic lanes. These neighbors include a lineman who helped get our electricity on a few weeks back, a social worker for child welfare, an instructor at Carrol University, and elderly couple who drives their special needs adult son to his day programming Monday – Friday.

Further, there are at least 250 new housing units going into Elm Grove. Is this plan expecting them to also work from home, drive west more often than east, take Legion to Elmhurst Parkway, and use Elmhurst to go east to N116th? I think it is a bit of a fantasy to think that people in Elm Grove will not choose to drive East on Watertown Plank Road. That project is only one of the new housing projects planned for the Village. Another project has not fully secured financing, and village approval but would like to add up more rental units. That site does have better access to Elm Grove Road, so maybe the hope is that it will access Bluemound Rd. But still curious how the two communities are working together to strategically allow for growth.

I see there is a planned blinking light for crossing at N118th St. I think a flashing light at the crossing where the bus stops are located is a positive idea. I believe the woman who walks with a crutch, uses MCTS early morning and late evening cross to catch/exit the bus at N 122<sup>nd</sup> St. would be well served with a flashing beacon as she struggles to cross the street with her crutch. Is it possible to add a light for her?

Will the city use any of its easement for this project? If yes, how will that green space be replaced? The children who live in the houses at the SW and SE corner of 119<sup>th</sup> use the front yard to play.

I look forward for information on:

When was the traffic study made during COVID or recently?

How were the costs of the study paid?

How were impacted residents surveyed? Was input just received from the Fisherwoods side or both sides of Watertown Plank Rd.?

How will implementation be paid? If state or federal funds are proposed for this project, what is the source, can the money be re-purposed? If state or federal funds are used, what is the anticipated local match? Will those match funds come from a special assessment of the neighborhoods impacted, the homes with frontage on Watertown Plank Rd. or through general purpose revenue/tax levy from the entire community?

Finally, I understand a lot of the people on the Fisherwoods side of this project either don't work or work from home, but that is not the entire neighborhood. My apologies as this is not meant to offend anyone, but the idea of slowing and limiting access seems like a very "white privilege" mindset. It sounds like this part of Wauwatosa feels "entitled" to limit and discourage people's ability to pass through our part of town to access work and shopping.

I look forward to following this issue closely.

Regards,



## Misty Richey

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**Subject:** FW: [External] (Tom)-Watertown Plank FW-FB Post & More Comments

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**From:** Tom <[thunderrd@wi.rr.com](mailto:thunderrd@wi.rr.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:29:38 AM

**To:** Robin Brannin

**Subject:** [External] (Tom)-Watertown Plank FW-FB Post & More Comments

Hi Robin,

My surgery is scheduled for this afternoon. As I mentioned, my wife will be driving. There is a good chance, I will need some assistance this Evening. It is because of this, I hope that my letter from 2022, comments and "Posts" will express our concerns and show our support for the upcoming improvements.

As you know, my FW Post was very long. I did want to add more comments, but I was trying to keep it as brief as possible. Is there a chance you would be able to "Present" these additional comments at the meeting?

On a daily basis, large 18 Wheel Semi-Trucks travel East & West on Watertown Plank. If you consider that the area going West that is bordered by Watertown Plank & North Ave, besides Sendik's and some other business's in Elm Grove, there are no business's that would require deliveries by any trucks of a large size. One theory that was talked about was that their GPS is sending them to this route. Through the years, these large heavy trucks have contributed to a more rapid decay of the concrete surface on Watertown Plank. Will the new Blacktop surface be able to withstand these large, heavy trucks? It is understood that Steins/Hawks is an exception. We know that since the beginning of The "Caroline Heights" (School Sisters Of Notre Dame) in Elm Grove project, there have been very large Dump Trucks & Cement Trucks traveling all day long on Watertown Plank. This causes a loud rumble & shaking, all day. This must take a Toll on the concrete. Should the city of Wauwatosa be responsible for this damage? Should there be Truck & Weight limits for Watertown Plank?

Robin, I could go on & on with the long history of incidences. As I mentioned if you could keep all our personal information confidential, for the reasons I mentioned, we would really appreciate it! If you could "Blank-Out" the bottom of my letter with our name, address & E-Mail, that would be great! I think this should be everything we need to contribute. If at some point, you could send us any updates, could you please E-Mail me. I very seldom use Facebook.

Again, Thank You For All Your Efforts & Good Luck!

## **MY "POST" TO FISHER WOODS FACEBOOK ON 01/29/24**

We have lived on Watertown Plank for 31 years. Year after year, the dangerous conditions have become very serious. We have expressed our concerns about traffic & speed and the dangerous conditions on Watertown Plank for many, many years. People from outside our community, commute through our area and drive East & West on Watertown Plank like it is a "Freeway". Incidences of "Road Rage" and "Hand Gestures" have become common! In 2000, a Wauwatosa Traffic Engineer came out to study the conditions. One of his suggestions was to promote more "Curb Parking". This is a common way to create a more "Traffic Calming" environment. He said that Watertown Plank Road was never designed or intended to be a high volume or high speed traffic "Main Corridor" for East/West travel. We never understood why commuters use Watertown Plank for East/West travel. Now that Bluemound Road is completed, it is great route for this. This is a RESIDENTIAL AREA. You could expand Watertown Plank Road to 12 lanes, what good would it do? Watertown Plank leads to Elm Grove which runs all the way to Brookfield Square at 25 M.P.H., the entire way. If you turn right heading north on 124<sup>th</sup> Street, that is 30 M.P.H. all the way to North Ave. Where are these People going?

One reason we have lived in this neighborhood for so long is that this is a great area for walking! Walkers, Dog Walkers, Bicyclist & children always need to avoid Watertown Plank because of the dangerous conditions. Sidewalks, will really help this.

The "Caroline Heights" (School Sisters Of Notre Dame) in Elm Grove project is underway. When complete there will be additional housing of new 21 Single-Family homes & 237 Apartments. This will mean more traffic for our neighborhood. There are times we need to wait a long time to Enter/Exit Watertown Plank to get to our Fisher Woods side streets. Plus, emergency vehicles need to do the same. ALL of these new plans will help alleviate these "Wait Times"!

We have all had to "Deal" with the "Headaches" of "Road Construction" projects the last 8 years. But, this is the one project we are looking forward to!

We cannot express how much we appreciate ALL the hard work & TIME that the Wauwatosa Traffic Engineers have put in to these plans for 2025! It is amazing that Alder Brannin has taken up the "Lead" & "Cause" to make our area safer and improve our neighborhood for the future! Thank You!

