

From: Scott Morgan [<mailto:sem@morganquitno.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 3:03 PM

To: mdever@sunflower.com

Cc: David Woosley; Sandra Day; Charles Soules; Scott McCullough; David L. Corliss; schummfoods@gmail.com; riordan346@gmail.com

Subject: Concern regarding Billings and Inverness Drive

Dear Mr. Mayor,

First let me say how much fun it is to be writing to whine about something rather than being the recipient of one of these emails. Let me also make it clear that in the world of Lawrence issues, this is a very minor one. It's just one of those things that I think can be addressed with a little focus and I want to be sure that it is not overlooked.

I have concerns regarding the intersection of Bob Billings and Inverness Drive where Brandon Woods and the Bella Sera units are located. Having lived on Inverness for 25 years, I have watched this corner grow more complicated in its traffic handling. With the addition of more units being built at Bella Sera and the interchange being put in on Billings and the South Lawrence Trafficway, the confusion will continue to increase.

I am aware that Billings will be studied from Iowa to the new interchange and I want to be sure that this corner is not overlooked. I am unaware of any easy solutions although it seems that a four-way stop or a traffic circle (yes, I like those) would work.

So that everyone knows what I have done, I am copying everyone I can think of. Also, I have spoken with Sandy in the Planning Office and David Woosley by phone and they were both very helpful and courteous. I plan to make a brief appearance at the planning meeting this evening. Isn't full disclosure a beautiful thing?

There are currently the following complications:

1. Traffic exiting Brandon Woods directly onto Billings and heading east to Inverness and then making a u-turn to head west on Billings, something they can't do directly because of the median in front of Brandon Woods.
2. Traffic exiting Bella Sera going either west or east on Billings or straight across onto Inverness. Neither they nor the drivers waiting on Inverness to turn onto Billings are really sure who has the right of way at this point. I'm not even sure. Does a driver entering a public road from a private lot have equal standing with the driver waiting directly across on Inverness at a stop sign on a public road?
3. Pedestrians are at a complete loss as to what they should do at this corner. If a walker/runner on Inverness wants to go east on Billings, they have to cross Billings as there is no sidewalk on the south side of Billings at this point. As one who has been in this position, I know that the best plan is to find an opening and run to the median and catch your breath. I assume the technical path is to walk west a quarter of a mile to Wakarusa, cross at that light and then walk another quarter mile back to the Inverness corner. That is a half-mile round trip path that is not typically followed.
4. Because of the hill on Billings, there is what I would call a limited-sight view looking east from Inverness to see if one can make a left turn onto Billings to head west while also looking to see if anyone has shown up from the Bella Sera lot or anyone from Brandon Woods trying to make a u-turn to head west on Billings. If you have all three, prepare to wait as everyone tries to figure out which of them should go first. You can also throw in the bus stop that is at this corner on the southwest side. The glass stop complicates the view and the bus itself just adds another level of fun.

Thank you for all of your work and your time. Again, I realize this is not earth-shattering but I just want to be a good citizen. I think you are all swell. However, if I do not get what I want (which is admittedly rather ill-defined) then I will shout at some meeting and make generally derogatory remarks.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan