Submission to Public Works Committee

As a homeowner and resident in the 900 block of McLeod Ave, I travel along McLeod Ave almost everyday - sometimes in the morning or afternoon - and often in the evening, which for many months means after dark. As such, I am acutely aware of the deficiencies of the pedestrian crossing infrastructure as it currently exists.

Mcleod Ave from Gateway Rd to Grassie Boulevard is a very busy street, with most of the pedestrian and vehicle traffic occurring between Gateway Rd and London St. The results of an unofficial traffic count taken for reference is as follows:
Jan 23, 3:30pm to 4:00pm - 467 vehicles
Jan 24, 11:00am to 11:15am - 215 vehicles
Jan 27, 10:30am to 11:00am - 291 vehicles

With the high volume of vehicle traffic, a designated pedestrian crossing is a very good thing to allow pedestrians to cross safely. However the ground-mounted crossing system on McLeod Ave between Gateway Rd and London St is insufficient and is not safe.

While I have fortunately not been involved in a pedestrian/vehicle accident at the crossing, I have witnessed several near misses since the crossing was installed. I believe this is the result of several issues -

- the crossing signs may be difficult to see as they are partially obscured by other signs close by such as the bus stop signs
- pedestrians waiting to cross are obscured by vehicles turning into or stopped in the approaches that are immediately adjacent to the crossing- on the north side into the Mcdonalds parking lot and on the south side into the parking lot of the strip mall where a Subway and several other restaurants are located
- additional nearby approaches such as the one onto Advance Auto Repair and Whale Car Wash parking lots can also obscure pedestrians waiting to cross
- transit users waiting for the bus at the nearby bus stops can also make it difficult to identify that someone is waiting to use the crossing
- after dark, the poor lighting and steady stream of traffic coming and going makes it difficult to see someone waiting to use the crossing, especially if the pedestrian is wearing dark clothing

While the above concerns that impact vehicle drivers are valid, the main concern is to make the crossing safe for pedestrians who use it. A crossing that is unsafe will not be utilized to its full potential and can encourage jaywalking. This adversely affects transit users needing to safely access the bus stops on either side of the street, or those wanting to safely access the businesses and the two Gurudwaras (Sikh Temples) located on either side of McLeod Ave.

All of the above concerns could be alleviated by installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing, allowing both pedestrians and drivers to safely use the road.

Therefore, we request that the City of Winnipeg install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the pedestrian crossing located on McLeod Ave between Gateway Rd and London St. to improve pedestrian and driver safety in our shared community.

Sincerely,
Carolyne and Rudy Wiebe

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