

August 20, 2004

mayor@rcgov.org
councilgrp@rcgov.org

Dear Mayor Shaw and Council:

Upon returning from vacation, I read where the City Council was reconsidering the placement of a stoplight at Soo San and Range Road. I am very pleased that additional consideration will be given to this much-needed control of this intersection. As you know from previous studies, there has been a continuous increase of traffic on Range Road and Soo San, based on traffic from Stevens High School, West Middle School parents, Black Hills Workshop staff and individuals served, the grade school and Kibben Kuster Schools, the National Guard, and the US Forest Service and its visitors. As you know, Soo San is the cut-across from West Main that brings sporadic, but sometimes very intense levels of traffic on this road. We have worked very closely with Rapid Ride to put shelters on Soo San, as many of our individuals access this mode of transportation to the Black Hills Workshop. However, there is a very high safety concern that we have as these individuals try to negotiate crossing the street, especially during periods when school is in session or the National Guard has training activities.

I have reported over the years to Bonnie Hughes when she was involved with planning, as well as others, of the fact that this intersection is a major safety concern. I have seen fender benders at this corner, and people "darting out" into the street, all creating very hazardous situations. I am aware of the cost factors that were listed in the paper, but know that this has been an ongoing need for more than 15 years. Even if there was a "used" light system that could be installed, it would be very helpful for this intersection. I know that the Public Works Committee has some data to review and I hope that any new data that is presented will be gathered for the September through May period of time, as this is the most critical for Jr. High students and our individuals who are walking on the sidewalks and across the street. Cars do not totally reflect how this intersection is used.

Again, thank you very much for reconsidering the priority for placement of a signal light at this intersection.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Popp, CEO
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