

Westosha Central High School Board Members and Administrators

So the State said Roundabout or nothing. According to the recent Kenosha News story 10/7/09, you have to, or should I say "WE" have to pay for and put in an over rated, over priced roundabout or pay for improvements to the high way 50/83 intersection. Sounds like extortion to me. Just what does the 50/83 intersection have to do with the school? With the "New Road" the school will actually put less traffic through that corner than we do now. The state over the past few years has made a number of changes to the roads around here that takes some thinking to figure out what they were trying to accomplish.

The recent rebuilding of Rt. 83 through Salem proper. First I hoped that they were going to provide a center turn lane. Instead we get this very wide Two Lane where people squeeze past on the right of the cars turning left. Not exactly what they taught me way back in drivers Ed. Next they tell Salem to make the road next to RC Electronics a one way going west to "Prevent Accidents" because RC fought for parking in front of their store. What, we can't see around a few parked cars? We all do it every day in the city's we work in or visit.

And if that's not enough, have you tried to turn into the west entrance of Lakeside Supervalu. The entrance by the Chinese restaurant. They made it so small you almost hit the car coming out if you don't put your rear tire over the curb going in. And what about the no left turn coming out of there along Highway 50. What problem did that solve?

My first experience with a roundabout was over 30 years ago in Des Plaines IL. It's where Golf Road and Wolf Road and a third local street all come together. Some of you may know where that is. All told you have Five ways out of that roundabout, which is why they put it there in the first place, many, many years ago. Recently I was in New Berlin WI. where I came upon a roundabout at the intersection of Moorland Road and Highway 43. Sure I breezed right through, but that was because I was on Moorland Road. The people getting off of 43 were lined up waiting for an opening to jump into. We had a yield sign going north and south. You didn't have many cars crossing your path that way. The Rt. 43 cars had to wait and wait for openings that during "Rush Hours" I'm sure takes a lot longer.

Now according to the news story, our roundabout will be a single lane circle. Doesn't seem to me to allow much room for merging. That aside, I can see it now, all those 16, 17 and 18 year old kids going round and round and round again. With the movies out recently that show cars doing what they call "Drifting" I can see boys going very fast around and around and around until they either hit something or shoot out into the field. This roundabout will seem to them as an extension of school property. They will feel as if it's just more parking lot. Remember, we are talking about new drivers. Speaking of the field, isn't the road placed where in the future the new sub-division on the west side of 83 will share this entrance? And if so, where is their money? Will the school be reimbursed for half of the cost? There was talk just a few years ago about houses going up there. If that would have happened then we might have gotten a free intersection that they paid for.

Lastly. Let's crunch the numbers. The State talks about safety. This NEW intersection is for a school. Rt. 83 is a MAIN road. What if we promise, with a conventional light to put a sheriff's deputy there for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon every day that school is in session? We're talking about less than 200 days a year, two hours a day. Throw in some football and basketball games and you may have 500 hours a year. Don't we already have / pay for a cop on campus during school hours? And you always see a couple of deputy's walking around at the football and basket ball games. So would there even be a cost for that?

The State wants to disrupt traffic 24 /7/ 365 days and nights a year for 500 hours of heavy usage? What's that, 6% of the time? I wager that 99% of the traffic on Rt.83 has nothing to do with the school.

The State wants Safety, let's give them Safety. A green light north and south over 90% of the time. For that matter let's reduce the speed through town from 35mph down to 30mph, all the way from John Deere to Walgreens. Limited outbound interruptions triggered only for the south bound turning students, remember the north bound cars can turn right on red. That's still the law in Wisconsin right, or do they want to change that too? Southbound inbound cars can be limited by allowing / encouraging the students living east and west on 50 to continue to use the existing entrance on Highway 50 where there still is a working light.

I'm sure you all have thought of other things to say to the State. Let's not give up just yet. This intersection is supposed to help our student be safer, not throw each incoming class into a bumper car ring.

Chris Skrzynecki

Father of graduates Justin and Keith and current driving age student Kevin.