



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Local and state officials continue to examine different options to improve the intersection of Century Avenue and Main Street, but improvements will most likely not happen in 2013 as originally planned.

Geoff Vine, president of the Waunakee Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Waunakee Central Business District (CBD) committee, spoke to the Waunakee Rotary Club Dec. 16 on the current status of what's typically referred to as the "roundabout project."

Keeping the interest of local businesses in the forefront, Geoff has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), the Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Waunakee to look at other ways to improve the intersection so the businesses there will be less negatively impacted.

"The idea of not doing anything is not viable," Geoff told the room, acknowledging that an improvement will happen to the intersection in the future.

Both the village and the DOT are examining the possibility of a signalized intersection in addition to the current roundabout option.

"We want to make sure we examine all possibilities," Geoff said.

Because the groups are re-analyzing their options, Geoff said construction likely won't happen until the summer of 2014, just under the 2015 deadline required to take advantage of federal stimulus dollars for the estimated \$8 to 10 million project.

Part of a renewed analysis stemmed from the large community turnout at an Oct. 6 open forum where the DOT heard concerns

from residents and officials, Geoff said.

"The DOT realized they need to spend more time studying the impacts," he said. "They've backed their bus up, and they're going to do a heck of a lot better job helping us understand what's going on and more. And that's big."

DOT and village officials are planning to meet in the middle of January to further analyze the two intersection ideas.

Having done that, the groups will go back to the public sometime at the end of January to educate and inform about the costs and benefits of both a roundabout and a signalized intersection.

Geoff cautioned, however, that initial analysis of a signalized intersection shows cons that might not make it the best option for residents and travelers.

Which improvement will be decided and how will be up in the air, Geoff said. It could come via a non-binding referendum from village residents, or the village board could vote on a recommendation for the DOT.

But Geoff assured Rotarians due to the close working relationship with the village, he doesn't foresee the DOT going against a recommended plan.

"It's not cut and dry," Geoff said. "The work now is to get as much information as we can, make the options the best they can be, and get the information (out to residents) before the work is done."

In other news:

- Members were urged to contribute to Every Rotarian Every Year, a \$100 cost per year. Those funds are invested to cover both

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Calendar of Events:

- Waunakee Winter Weekend, Feb. 18-20.*

Rotary International's administrative costs and international projects.

- Heavy snows slowed down traffic through the Rotary Lights project, but Phil Willems said he expects it to pick up again.

Guests: ???

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: Dec. 23, Paul and Chris Gilbertson; Dec. 26, Bob and Mary Jane Nicholson; Dec. 27, Rich and Sue Wipperfurth.

Prayers: Dec. 23, Pat Durden; Dec. 30, Leonard Allen; Jan. 6, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Dec. 23, caroling at the Manor; Dec. 30, year end wrap with Rotary Trivia Contest; Jan. 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Dec. 23, Ed Niebuhr and Becky Ohan; Dec. 30, Linda Olson and Danny Paul; Jan. 6, Ken Pesik and Bob Pulvermacher.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.