



Proud Traditions. . .Unlimited Possibilities

12/14/18

Dear Indianola City Council:

Jason Etnyre asked me to provide an opinion/recommendation from ICSD regarding the plan to convert Highway 92 from four lanes to three lanes next summer. Several school board members and school officials were able to attend a presentation and discussion with the DOT last week. We appreciated the opportunity although we have not had a lot of time to consider what we heard.

The general response of school representatives is that we understand the safety argument being made for converting four lane roads to three lanes with a turning lane. The left turn at S. 9th Street near Casey's is a good example of the challenges of a four-lane road there. A prime school concern was peak traffic times at the beginning and end of school, with Highway 92 running right between our two largest attendance centers and with the middle school being our main bus transfer location. Cars currently back up onto Highway 92, and we are concerned that drivers will make the turning lane a de facto passing lane. We don't feel like design solutions were considered or put forward to address this. What we did hear was that maybe the City's signal project could help alleviate this, maybe the school could retrain parents, or perhaps this is an enforcement issue for the Police Department. Mr. Moeller inquired about leaving the area in front of the schools as four-lane (east of 9th Street through 15th Street). There are not a large number of entries onto the highway like there are further west, and I would have liked to have heard this idea explored more.

To summarize, school representatives are not necessarily opposed to a three-lane plan. I have seen it work in Fairfield although there are not schools right along either Highway 1 or Highway 34 there. We accept the safety argument, and there are other places in Indianola that three lanes work well. We continue to have concerns about peak traffic times and back up and are not totally convinced that the three-lane plan won't exacerbate that.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Art Sathoff'.

Superintendent Art Sathoff