

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

MPO QUARTERLY

December 2021
Edition #04

School Zone Radar
New SRTS program works with schools to study speed

Michigan Left Turn
An option when looking to increase safety and decrease travel times

CTH T
Moving forward with future official mapping of the corridor



Michigan Left

While in Tucson, AZ in November, it was noticed that the City is increasing the number of arterial corridors that deploy a design that eliminates left hand turns at the intersection. These intersections are called a Michigan Left or an Indirect Left Turn. Vehicles that want to turn left travel through the intersection and then do a U-turn followed by a right turn. In many ways, these intersections act as a much larger roundabout. In doing research on this design, it was found that they are gaining popularity.

This type of intersection has several benefits. First and foremost, it reduces crashes and significantly reduces the number of serious and fatal crashes. The intersections are safer for pedestrians and bicyclists as well. It also reduces the amount of time vehicles are stopped at intersections, reduces fuel consumption for all vehicles using the intersection, and creates smaller intersections, which reduces costs and reduces distance pedestrians and bicyclists need to cross.

Another version of this is the elimination of left turns when turning onto a highway. Instead, vehicles turn right, then do the U-turn to head back in the desired direction.

Project Updates

City of Altoona Bike/Ped & Safe Routes To Parks Plan - Sidewalk condition map was completed. Plan development has started.

CTH T Official Mapping - Final option was decided by the units of government. Counties and City of Eau Claire will vote on option in January.

City of Eau Claire - Bike/Ped Plan Further Study Report - Draft document will be completed in January.

West Central WI County Crash Report 2021- Completed.

Eau Claire County Crash Report 2022 - Will start in February.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Inventory of existing signage is nearing completion.

Chippewa Falls Shared Ride Taxi administration - Ongoing.

Chippewa Valley SRTS Partnership and various projects - Ongoing.

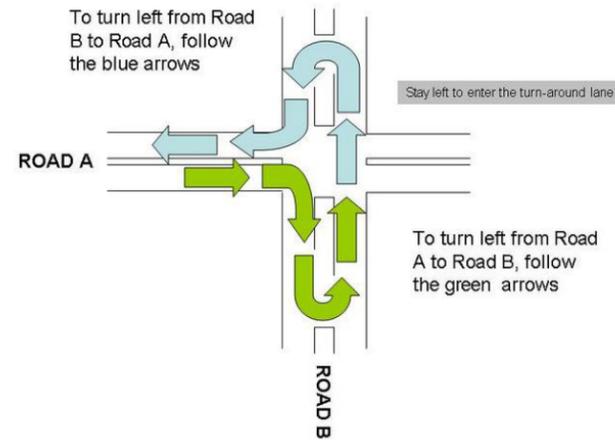
Chippewa Valley Bike Routes - Signage was installed this Fall and will continue in the Spring.

Capital Improvement Plan Story Maps - Eau Claire County will be started in January.

Cover Photo: Students taking radar speeds at Putnam Heights Elementary School

This has been recently implemented in Wabasha, MN at MN STH 60 and Great River Road (USH 61). The intersection is now significantly safer and operates extremely well. This design is a great option when traffic is entering a highway like in Wabasha and when traffic is coming off an off-ramp and entering an arterial road and/or highway.

THE MICHIGAN LEFT HAND TURN



WisDOT TAP Application

The WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program application closes on January 28, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the application, please let us know. We have been working with this program since 2007. If we don't know the answer to your questions, we can easily get the answer for you.

County Highway T - Official Mapping

Over the past several months, staff has been working with the towns of Wheaton and Union, City of Eau Claire, and Chippewa and Eau Claire counties on official mapping for CTH T, which is planned to be widened in the future.

Over the next few weeks, the two counties and City of Eau Claire will be taking the proposed corridor option to their respective committees for approval. When that step is complete, WCWRPC will then do the official mapping work. Over the past months, we have helped plan and facilitate two public information meetings and have attended all the work group meetings.

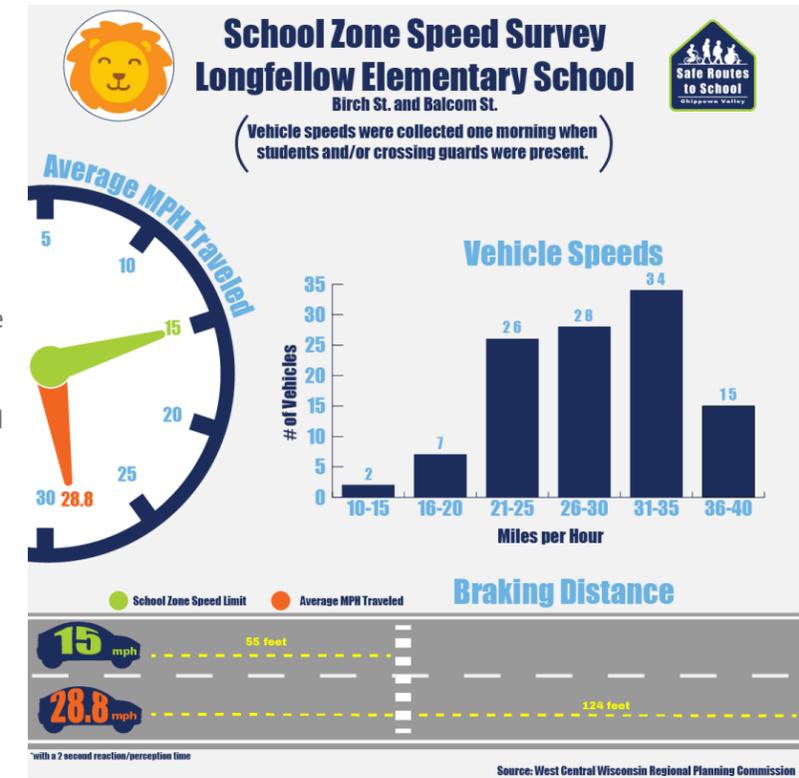
The Chippewa-Eau Claire MPA includes:

The cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, the Village of Lake Hallie, and all or parts of the towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton. www.wcwrpc.org 715.836.2918

Safe Routes To School Radar Program

In September, staff purchased two speed radar devices that can be used to get vehicle speeds. Since then, staff have gone to five schools to take speed radar in school zones while students and/or crossing guards were present. It was no surprise that vehicle speeds were significantly higher than the posted 15 mph. In fact, of the locations completed, the average speeds were 20.8, 22.5, 24.0, 26.5, 26.7, 28.8, and 30 mph. We then produced an informative infographic that shows average speed, how many vehicles were going certain speeds, and a stopping distance calculation for both 15mph and the average speed. The infographic is used by the school to educate parents and the community on the speeding in the school zone.

In early December, staff partnered with Putnam Heights Elementary School and worked with off-duty student safety patrollers and school staff. The students and staff did the speed detecting. Moving forward, staff will be contacting schools in the Chippewa Valley to see if they would also like students and/or staff to help out with this project.



Contact Information



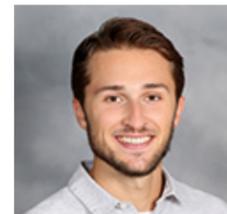
Eric Anderson
 Senior Planner/MPO Director
eanderson@wcwrpc.org
 Ext. 18



Edwin Rothrock
 Associate Planner
erothrock@wcwrpc.org
 Ext. 25



Hailee Bushman
 Assistant Planner
 SRTS Coordinator
hbushman@wcwrpc.org
 Ext. 22



Michael Mills
 Assistant Planner
mmills@wcwrpc.org
 Ext. 23

Inside the MPA: What's Your Guess?

In 2018, there were 6,904 residents in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties that were 80 years old or older. What is that population age group projected to be in 2045?

Did You Know?

There were 69,575 jobs in the MPA in 2018. Of those jobs, 35,438 (51%) were people that lived in the MPA, while 49% commuted from outside the MPA. The county with the highest percent of people commuting into the MPA for work was Chippewa with 11% of all jobs.

What's Your Guess Answer: The two counties are expected to have over 16,000 persons 80 years old or older in the year 2045. That is a 134 percent increase.