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February 13, 2024

Dear Sauganash Community:

I have spoken to the family of the student who was hit this morning at N. Keating Ave. and W. Peterson Ave. I am grateful the student is recovering. Pedestrians should be able to cross W. Peterson Ave. safely, especially students on their way to and from school.

Today, February 13, 2024, I submitted a second Traffic Study to the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) to assess pedestrian safety while crossing W. Peterson Ave. between N. Cicero Ave. and N. Forest Glen Ave. - reiterating that this is a primary route for students to walk to both Sauganash Elementary School and Queen of All Saints School.

I am asking CDOT again to consider all options to increase safety, including a new traffic signal and/or the removal of crosswalks and signage where there are no traffic signals. While W. Peterson Avenue is a state road, the City can recommend improvements that are ultimately approved by the State. I have shared my study request with both State Senator Ram Villivalam and State Representative Mike Kelly. Their partnership in ensuring the safety of this intersection is vital.

In September of 2022, I submitted a traffic study request to review W. Peterson Ave. between N. Keating and N. Knox Ave. CDOT engineers suggested adding additional signage, a pedestrian refuge island, and tree removal to increase sight lines. My office worked with the Sauganash School Local School Council (LSC), the Sauganash Community Association, and the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to implement new signage, paint crosswalks, and trim trees.

CDOT and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) also recommend students only cross W. Peterson Ave. with the traffic signals at N. Cicero Ave., and N. Forest Glen Ave. Additionally, N. Forest Glen Ave. and W. Peterson Ave. is staffed by a CPS Crossing Guard. Early last year, the LSC and I asked CPS to assess N. Kilpatrick Ave. and W. Peterson Ave. as a location for an additional crossing guard. The CPS Office of Safety and Security does not recommend students cross at N. Kilpatrick Ave. and W. Peterson Ave., so they do not recommend posting a crossing guard at the location either.

In the interim, I have requested additional special attention from CPD to periodically post officers along W. Peterson Ave. during school arrival and dismissal. My office will share the results of this study when it is complete.

Sincerely,

Samantha Nugent
Alderman, 39th Ward