

Ranked List of Traffic Calming Issues Comstock 2021

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Safe Pedestrian and School route: S. Bernard sidewalk infill project

There has been an ongoing request for infill sidewalks to be installed from 37th to High Drive, East side of Bernard for many years. It's been reported by the city that this may happen in years 2022-2023 but we will keep this on our list until completion.

Submitted on behalf of John Schram, CNC Chair.

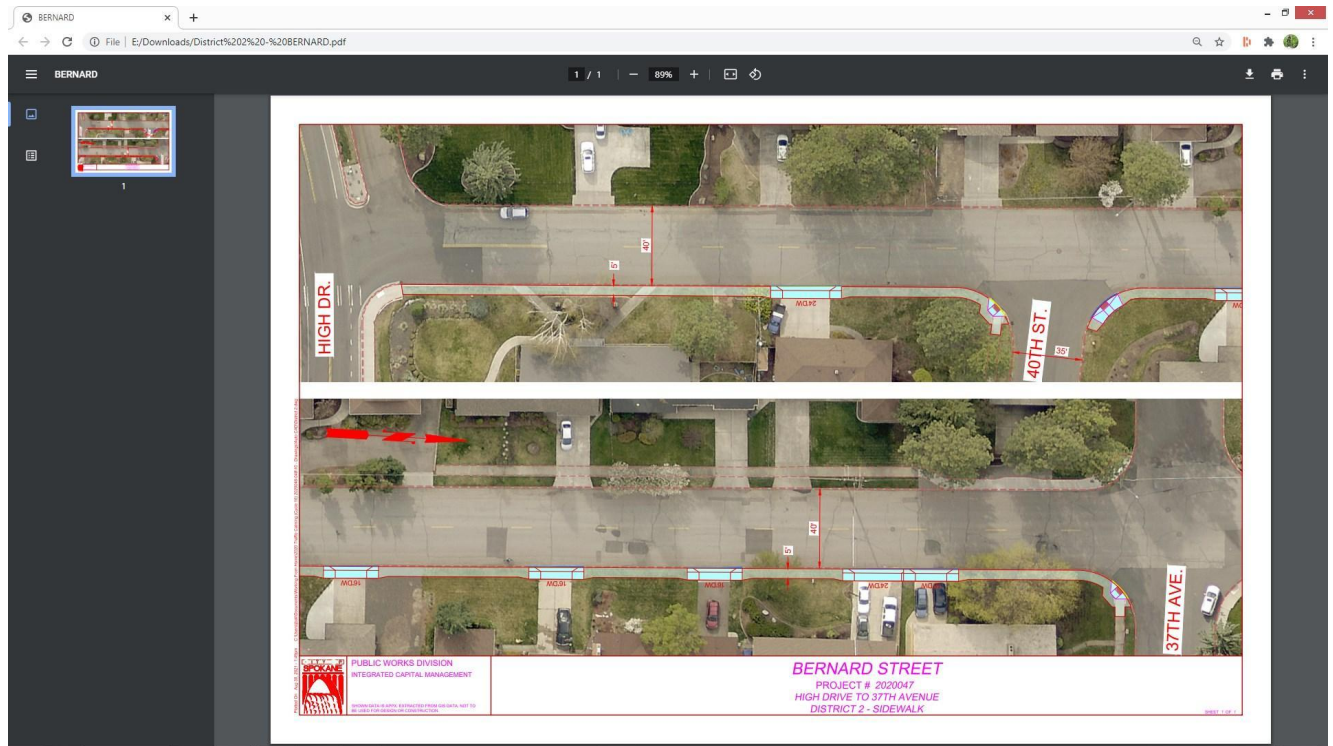
This short block and a half that borders only 7 homes is the final stretch of Bernard that remains without a sidewalk. This has been determined to be a route that school children would use to get to Jefferson Elementary and their administration has provided the Comstock Neighborhood Council a written recommendation for the City to install sidewalks for student safety. The Comstock Neighborhood Council has submitted for sections of the west side of Bernard to have sidewalk infill from 29th Ave. to High Dr. over the past 15-20 years and this short section is all that remains.

From Annica Eagle via email on 15 Oct 2021:

Hi Comstock Neighborhood Council,

Our engineer has been working through all of the neighborhoods' 2020 Traffic Calming applications, and they have put together the draft proposal that is attached, regarding the sidewalks on Bernard.

Please take a look at the draft proposal and let me know what you think!



On Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 3:06 PM Comstock NHC Chair <comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com> wrote:

Annica, that looks great and will complete the decades long effort for a sidewalk on the east side of Bernard. Is this a for sure approved project and if so what if any install timeline is there? John Schram, Comstock Co-Chair

On Oct 19, 2021 Jeff Mergler wrote:

Annica,

What's your sense of the timeline, should the subcommittee approve it? 2022 or 2023?

On Tue, Oct 19, 2021 at 12:27 PM Eagle, Annica <aeagle@spokanecity.org> wrote:

Hi Jeff,

There isn't an exact timeline yet as there are multiple departments and steps involved, but if approved, the earliest it could potentially be built would be in 2023. But it could be later, as there are still some Cycle 8 and all of Cycle 9 approved projects in the queue to be built.

Safe pedestrian crossing at 37th Ave and S Bernard

Comstock Neighborhood Council has received a series of emails from local residents requesting a safe crossing for school children at 37th and Bernard. The submissions received are listed below:

On Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 10:28 AM Kathryn Lichfield <klichfield@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi there!

We would love to request a crosswalk system at the intersection of 37th and Bernard. Our kids ride bikes there to and from school everyday. We love the neighborhood and have lived here for 9 years. We would love to see it improve and become much safer for an active lifestyle.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kind Regards,
Kathryn Lichfield
Regent ct

On Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 10:32 AM <snyder.brynn@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi I have 5 kids and moved into the neighborhood a year ago. As we have been riding our bikes and walking to school we have noticed that there is no crosswalk at Bernard and 37th. I have spoken with the school district and they will be submitting for a crosswalk at that location. We would love if the neighborhood council could help us get a flashing light and cross walk on the north side (since the school is on the north side and most of our kids come from the north). Please let me know what I need to do to have this proposed to the neighborhood council.

Thanks so much
Brynn snyder
Cell 509.821.1438

On Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 10:58 AM <snyder.brynn@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Spokane councilmen (Lori, Breean and Betsy),

We started attending Jefferson elementary school this year (we had been at Wilson prior). As a family we love living close to our schools so we can walk and bike to school. We were shocked to find that we didn't have a cross walk at a busy intersection to get to school safely. We have to cross at 37th and Bernard.

I have talked with our principal Brent Purdue and sps81 safety specialist John Vansant and they agree and will be filing for a cross walk. I have emailed our neighborhood council to let them know this is important for the safety of our neighborhood and kids.

I personally know of 17 kids that attend Jefferson that have to walk/bike across this intersection, and I know there are others crossing that I do not know. I also have a child that goes to Sac that crosses.

I propose that we as a city, neighborhood council and school, work together to put in a cross walk with flashing lights on the north side of the 37th and Bernard intersection.

With a bike lane on the north side of 37th.

I propose the north side because 90% of the homes in this area zoned for Jefferson are having the kids walk from the north side. Only 2 cul de sacs come from the south. (I attached a rough image yellow displaying northside walkers and red showing south side walkers)

Please let me know what I can do to help this matter move forward to help keep our neighborhood walker/runners/bikers safe.

Please let me know what you as a councilmen can do to move this forward as well.

Brynn Snyder
3602 s Jefferson Drive
Spokane Washington 99203

P.s. the residents on 37th ave between Bernard and the school put their garbage cans on the sidewalk making walking/biking to school difficult. I would love to know if we can request them and the garbage trucks to put the cans in a place that makes it possible to use the sidewalk

Cell 509.821.1438

On Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 7:33 PM Connie Davis <cccjdavis@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am concerned about the school kids who cross and wait at 37th & Arthur. There should be clearly marked cross walks for them. There is also city bus stops on this corner, that people use often, families crossing for walks, jogging and access to Super 1. Traffic flies through at 40+ MPH. People often run the stop signs. What is the process to initiate this?

Thank you for your time,
Connie

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:57 PM Stephanie Thurston
<stephanie.j.thurston@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi John! We live on 37th and Jefferson and my children go to Jefferson elementary. I would love for them to be able walk to and from school. Unfortunately with the amount of accidents I've seen, and how fast drivers go on Bernard, I just don't feel comfortable or safe with it. Please can we work on getting a crosswalk out in at 37th and Bernard for the safety of our children? Thank you so much!
Stephanie Thurston
509-251-0084

On Wednesday 15 Dec 2021 at the CNC meeting, Brynn Snyder raised this issue with Betsy in attendance. Ashley Hansen agreed with her own story as did Rose Judge. Thomas Jarrard mentions that crossing guards are in place on Grand, why not Bernard. There may be an item in SPS where they may ask for a blinking light. John Schram advocated an interpretive art form of painted crosswalks. Betsy Wilkerson volunteered to work with Brynn and SPS and get a meeting about it.

Traffic Calming on W 37th Avenue between Bernard and High Drive

Submitted by Jeff Mergler 509-991-4182 on behalf of the neighbors on this block

This section of W 37th has had an increasing number of close calls with pedestrians and cyclists vs automobiles in 2019 and 2020. This section of W 37th is not an arterial and is quite wide which encourages speeding which has become highly problematic since there are a lot of children playing and cycling on the road.

Approximately ½ of vehicles are speeding on this section as they get off High Drive and head towards Bernard or head from Bernard and the arterial portion of W37th towards High Drive. About ⅓ of the vehicles are driving at excessively dangerous speeds > 40mph.

Neighbors have been increasingly frustrated with aggressive driving and have resorted to plastic yellow "Kids at Play" cutouts which are frequently knocked

over by drivers. Neighbor's are now verbally shouting at drivers to slow down with varying levels of success.

The uncontrolled intersection at W 37th and Jefferson has also been the scene of several motor vehicle accidents including a T-bone in 2019 where a car was pushed onto the front lawn of 429 W Jefferson Ct, knocking over a utility box.

We would like city engineers to evaluate the location for a traffic calming solution that suits the situation.

Mobile Speeding Feedback Unit was installed in early May 2021 at that location which may provide supporting metrics.

Accident report: car drives through guardrail and down the bluff:

On 18 Oct 2021 at approx 4:30am, a vehicle travelling westbound on W 37th Ave towards High Drive, drove through the intersection (stop sign at W 37th and High Drive, proceeded straight and jumped the curb, tore through the guard rail and rolled down the South Hill bluff at least 100 feet down until it rested to a stop on the top level hiking/mountain biking trail. Speed humps might have slowed (and perhaps awakened) the driver before the crash down the bluff. Ref.

https://www.khq.com/news/driver-crashes-into-tree-goes-over-embankment-near-high-drive-bluff-park/article_6daad772-3025-11ec-bb78-eb1cb501a886.html

Resident Carol Eng (corner of W37th and High Drive) confirms that this happened at 4:30am and that it may have been an intentional act. Det. Ty Snider also indicated it might be an act of self harm.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 5:51 AM Laura Oliva <laura.oliva@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Black and Mr. Schram,

My name is Laura Kolbe and I live on 412 W. 37th Ave, just off Bernard St. I am writing you today to add to the voices raising concerns over increased speeding on 37th ave. Part of the speeding issue is somewhat understandable. East of my home, 37th is considered an arterial. So people sometimes continue down 37th Ave as if they are still on the arterial. The speeding has worsened, however, in recent months. Some of that may be in part to the much reduced speed limit on High Drive. Since the new limit is 20mph, people cut through 37th to avoid the long trails of traffic that develop on high Drive. Many rush off High Drive and onto 37th without concern for several uncontrolled intersections (both on Jefferson and Lincoln) until they get to the

stop sign on Bernard St. I have seen many near collisions from speeders racing through and not noticing much slower local traffic. There are at least four families with young children on 37th and we've all tried various measures to calm the traffic such as orange figures holding speed signs but it doesn't seem to have much of an impact.

I am uncertain of what the optimal solution is but am grateful to friends and neighbors such as Jeff Mergler that are working to calm the traffic. I'm happy to be contacted to help with the solution in any way that I can.

Sincerely,
Laura Kolbe

Improved and Safer Crossing at E 29th Ave and Manito Blvd

Summary of email exchange(s) below: the pedestrians have right of way at E29th and Manito is not universally observed by drivers and the flags are faded and getting scarce. What can be done to improve driver's observance of pedestrian right of way and pedestrian safety? HAWK signals? 20mph speed limit?

Submitted by Susan Jensen via Email:

Original Email

- > From: Susan Jensen <susanjensen09@yahoo.com>
- > Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2021 12:55 PM
- > To: Kinnear, Lori <lkinnear@spokanecity.org>
- > Subject: Cross walk 29th and Manito
- >
- > Ms Kinnear
- > I have lived in the Comstock neighborhood for 20 years and I have never felt the need to reach out more help until now. There is a serious safety issue for pedestrian access at 29th street and Manito Blvd. I have walked my dog and pushed strollers at this cross street for 20 years and the traffic safety is worsening.
- > Drivers don't stop for the cross walk pedestrians and I have had motorists pass the car in front of them to avoid stopping. Last week my safety and a child's was seriously affected by a driver texting. Children access this cross walk twice a day and it is not safe. I watched a police vehicle not stop recently while he was not in pursuit!!!
- > Manito Blvd is a park zone and accessed by more people than Comstock pool and it baffles me that there is not a park zone speed limit there. For Gods sake this needs to be addressed before someone gets hit.

>
> I would appreciate your response,
> Susan Jensen PA-C
> 3914 S Sherman st
> Spokane
> 99203
> 509-481-8082

Reply by Councilwoman Lori Kinnear

> On Jun 8, 2021, at 12:38 PM, Kinnear, Lori <lkinnear@spokanecity.org> wrote:
>
> Hi Susan,
> Traffic speed and inattentiveness citywide has gotten much worse in the last year or so. This crossing is no exception. There are red flags at the crossing for pedestrians to use to get driver's attention. However, that shouldn't be the ultimate solution. The neighborhood council did propose a pedestrian light there. There was not the funding at the time to install one. I am copying our Transportation policy person Shauna Harshman on this so she can let us know if there is another opportunity to solve this problem.
> Lori

Reply by Susan Jensen

From: Susan Jensen <susanjensen09@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Kinnear, Lori <lkinnear@spokanecity.org>
Subject: Re: Cross walk 29th and Manito

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

There are 3 flags left and they are no longer red. Why is it not possible to have 20 mph in that area? The stretch of High Drive is now 20 mph and I don't see the difference. Both are adjacent to city park land. Last night at 7 pm I counted 8 cars that passed me without stopping.

Reply by Councilwoman Lori Kinnear

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 4:02 PM Kinnear, Lori <lkinnear@spokanecity.org> wrote:
Hi Susan,
The pilot along High Drive has faced quite a bit of backlash from both neighbors and commuters even though it is a designated parkway. The best

way to move forward with a solution here would be to build consensus in your neighborhood council (Comstock Neighborhood Council) and adjacent neighborhood councils (Manito/Cannon Hill Neighborhood Council). That way the streets department isn't acting based on a handful of people's concerns but the expressed needs of the entire area. I've copied the neighborhood chairs should you want to contact them.

Lori

Reply by John Schram, Comstock Co-Chair

Susan, I too share your concern regarding the crossing at Manito and 29th. Last time I was there repairing the flag holders and replenishing flags I had multiple cars not stop for me as I was in the street waving a flag. Ironically, one of them was a van that had a motorized wheelchair strapped to the back bumper! As Lori mentioned, this crossing remediation has been a priority for as long as I can remember (10 years in Comstock) for both Comstock and Manito Neighborhood Councils. The concept of a push button activated light (HAWK) was squashed by multiple of the neighbors on the adjacent corners out of concern the frequent blinking lights would be a "nuisance". That was back in the day of needing to get neighbors to sign off on these types of projects but I believe that hard and fast rule is no longer. I never want to advocate for a project that will be an obvious burden on those living nearby but as you aptly describe the alternative for pedestrians is even worse.

I am including our traffic and pedestrian person Jeff Mergler in this string and am officially nominating this crossing to be included on Comstocks list we submit to the City this fall as they develop their traffic projects for the upcoming planning cycle. I will ask Mary from Manito to consider joining me for the same ask so we can have consensus among neighborhoods. Thank you Lori for keeping us in the loop and I look forward to hearing from Shauna that there is enough money in the coffers to fully fund some HAWK lights and get started on construction by the end of the month!

John Schram, Comstock Co-Chair

Submitted by Kenneth Buzby via Email:

Original Email

On Thu, Jul 1, 2021 at 3:53 PM kenneth buzby <kcbuzby@yahoo.com> wrote:
Dear Mary and John,

I am again writing to plead for some action at 29th & Manito Blvd. Almost weekly there is a rear end collision on the southwest corner of this

intersection. Pedestrians are crossing the street across 29th through the boulevard and vehicles headed east crest the small hill and have inadequate warning and have to slam on their brakes. Their speed is too fast. Again today there was a significant rear end collision.

The Boulevard has constant foot traffic with adults, children, pets and bicycles trying to safely cross 29th. Speed limits have been lowered to 20mph on Bernard by Japanese Garden so WHY has 29th & Manito Blvd been neglected for safety? Both are arterials.

My requests to the Mayor and Council were referred back to the Neighborhood councils and both councils border 29th. So I am respectfully begging for this intersection to have a flashing light and a reduced speed limit. During the school year this is a major pathway for kids attending Jefferson and Sacajawea schools. There is just not enough signage and warnings for drivers to slow down!

This really needs to be a priority for funding requests from the Neighborhood Councils before someone is seriously injured or killed. We have seen pedestrians hit by cars and actually had a car crash into the corner of our garage knocking it off the foundation. The vehicle owner had insurance and paid the \$13,000.00 repairs. We were grateful. Once again today we risked our own safety to pick up the large pieces of wreckage from the street.

Please make this safety issue a priority and prevent a serious injury.

Thank You

Ken & Yvonne Buzby

2904 S Manito Blvd

509-953-0200 & 509-953-3272

Reply by Mary, Manito/Cannon Hill Neighborhood Council Chair

Well, Ken and Yvonne, I think I have a bit of good news for you in regard to your concern. It is a long story with several twists and turns, but....our original 2020 traffic calming request, which we submitted, in conjunction with the Cliff/Cannon Neighborhood Council, is just now being reviewed. (The requests were all delayed a year because of COVID.) They decided that that our original request will be considered next year and asked that we substitute something else in this round. After some horse trading, we landed on installing a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the 29th and Manito Blvd. crosswalk. I haven't seen a final approved 2020 traffic calming list, but I am hopeful that this RRFB will be on the list.

I will keep you posted.

Have a good night,

Mary
Manito/Cannon Hill Neighborhood Council

Submitted by Betsy Ressa via Nextdoor:

The crosswalk saga continues....

What is it going to take before drivers realize (or care!) someone is in a crosswalk trying to cross the street??? Today while attempting to cross 29th at Manito Boulevard I had to stand in the crosswalk waving my arms and yelling like a lunatic before cars in all lanes stopped and allowed me to cross. I was wearing a neon-yellow jacket and had two dogs with me so I was pretty hard to miss. This isn't the first (or the second or the third...) time this has happened to me and I know it's been a complaint by many others. I've called the city, the police department and four of our neighborhood councils. What will it take before something is done and someone doesn't get injured or worse?

Ref. https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=201433016

In addition Betsy Ressa reached out to John Schram via email:

Hi - I understand there may be a volunteer opportunity for someone to connect with the city regarding pedestrian safety on the south hill? I would appreciate more information.

On Sun, Oct 31, 2021 at 8:51 PM Sis Buzby <kcbuzby@yahoo.com> wrote:

Accident AGAIN at 29th & Manito tonight during Halloween trick or treating !!!



Safe pedestrian crossing at E 29th Ave and S Arthur

Summary: a crosswalk installation is requested by residents at this intersection.

Submitted by Betsy Ressa via Email:

Would it be possible to pursue the installation of a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Arthur and 29th Avenue, maybe through a joint process with both the Comstock and Rockwood Neighborhoods? I walk daily (with two dogs) and one of my "routes" is from my house (43rd and Conklin) to the Rockwood neighborhood. Going either to Grand and 29th or Perry and 29th where there are signaled crosswalks is just as dangerous as trying to cross 29th at Arthur. I called the city to find out what it would take to get a marked crosswalk installed at this intersection and learned that there had already been several requests. He suggested that I contact the police department to complain.

Is this something that could be part of the 2020 Traffic Calming Program? I'd appreciate your thoughts.

Betsy Ressa
509-953-3154

Safe pedestrian crossing at W 33rd Ave at S Bernard

On Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 9:19 PM brian engel <bjengel74@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello I contacted the city about a crosswalk across Bernard on 33rd. They said to contact your neighborhood council as well. How can we get this done?

Thanks Brian Engel
5093851163

On Fri, Oct 15, 2021, 10:45 AM Comstock NHC Chair
<comstockneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com> wrote:

Brian, thanks for reaching out. We have been contacted by several parents of kids going to Jefferson with the desire for a crosswalk at Bernard and 37th. Just wanting to confirm your vote for 33rd and get any additional feedback as to the reasoning the neighborhood would use to advocate for the installation (accident data, near misses, school kids etc). I have also cc'd our neighborhood liaison Jeff on this email.

John Schram, Comstock Co-chair

On Sat, Oct 16, 2021 at 10:23 AM brian engel <bjengel74@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes. 33rd would be preferable. There is a sidewalk on both sides. And it is a primary route for Sacajawea students coming from the neighborhood west of Lincoln north and south of 29th. It also connects Comstock park to manito boulevard hart field and both schools. Thanks Brian

Stop sign at Arthur and E 32nd Ave

On Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 10:10 PM Satish Shrestha <mtxsat@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Comstock Neighborhood Council,

I am a Spokane resident. I have lived here since 2008 and I love it! I am writing to request an installation of a stop sign or any reasonable speed reducing mechanism at the intersection of Arthur and 32nd Ave (screenshot below). Since the city paved this street 3 years ago, it has become a popular street. It has also made most drivers oblivious of the speed limit. Hence, drivers reach speeds over 35 mph in both directions. As a result, I have witnessed 2 serious accidents and several minor alterations among drivers and pedestrians at the intersection. Please let me know if there's any form or document I need to fill out to officially make a request.

----- Original Message -----

From: Satish Shrestha [mtxsat@gmail.com]

Sent: 10/13/2021 12:20 PM

To: streetsinfo@spokanecity.org

Subject: A request for a stop sign at the intersection of Arthur and 32nd Ave (99203)

Hi City of Spokane Streets Department team,

I am a Spokane resident. I have lived here since 2008 and I love it! I am writing to request an installation of a stop sign or any reasonable speed reducing mechanism at the intersection of Arthur and 32nd Ave (screenshot below). Since the city paved this street 3 years ago, it has become a popular street. It has also made most drivers oblivious of the speed limit. Hence, as soon as drivers head south from 29th on Arthur, many of them continue to drive at 35+ mph speed. As a result, I have witnessed 2 serious accidents and several minor alterations among drivers and pedestrians at the intersection. Please let me know if there's any form or document I need to fill out to officially make a request.

Unsafe speeding (drifting) near Comstock at 33rd and Lincoln

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 12:57 PM Rose Judge <roseharber@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, John. I will plan to be there next Wednesday.

We live on the corner of 33rd and Lincoln and the issue I am having is with speeding drivers (mostly teenagers) trying to drift around the corner given the size of the uncontrolled intersection. This summer, we could hear them racing their cars since the streets are wide. Then, once school was back in session we listened to tires screeching at all hours of the day/night as they tried to drift around the corner. Now that it has snowed, I watched 5 different cars speed and drive out of control down Lincoln/33rd and try to spin donuts at the intersection for FIVE HOURS last night (you can see the donut tire marks right now).

This is dangerous and reckless and crime check doesn't do anything about it despite my many calls. Someone is going to get hurt. I don't even feel safe bringing my kid to the park as I also saw drivers spinning donuts IN THE PARK last night. Our neighbors kitty corner, the Condons, had tire marks on their lawn from one of these drivers a few weeks ago losing control and ending up in their yard in the middle of the night. I have confronted one of the drivers I saw spin out and almost hit the fire hydrant on the corner and he very clearly did not care about the danger he was posing to the community.

I am going to do everything in my power to try to get a roundabout installed on the corner of 33rd/Lincoln. I've already raised the issue with the city and have a call with the City Streets Director, Clint Harris, later this week. Since we can't count on the police for help with this, or on teenagers making good decisions, a physical barrier seems like the only option.

-Rose