



**Meeting Date:** November 9, 2020

**To:** Village Board Administration Committee

**From:** Michael Braiman, Village Manager

**Subject:** Add'l Agenda Material – Item 3.8 (FY 2021 Budget)  
Sheridan Road Crosswalk near Plaza del Lago Rapid  
Reflecting Flashing Beacon

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Enclosed are emails from residents expressing their support for the rapid reflecting flashing beacon (RRFB) at the Sheridan Road crosswalk near Plaza del Lago. This project is included in the Proposed FY 2021 Budget under the line item 'Pedestrian Improvements' in account 1120-425246 (the project is funded as part of the Infrastructure Investment program).

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Board discussion of improvement of crosswalk and lights across Sheridan Road at 1500 Sheridan and Plaza del Lago  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 12:03:41 PM

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**From:** Gail Shorr <gjshorr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Board discussion of improvement of crosswalk and lights across Sheridan Road at 1500 Sheridan and Plaza del Lago

Dear Mr. Braiman,

I sent the following email to Trustee Kurzman in response to information he provided in his newsletter about an agenda item on Nov. 10th to discuss placing RRFB lights at the crosswalk between 1500 Sheridan Road and Plaza del Lago.

I do not agree that RRFBs are the best solution. I think the Board has decided to discuss this without looking at the entire problem of the unsafe and illogical crosswalk in context to the difficult traffic patterns of the driveways on both sides of Sheridan, parked trucks, and bicycle usage. This is a much bigger problem to discuss from engineering, transportation and safety perspectives than just installing RRFBs.

RRFBs are just the least expensive option but not the responsible option at this time. Emails and letters of support from residents are in response to incomplete information - and from thinking that RRFBs are the only option.

The Village should open a full discussion and inform and include residents about all options to improve the safety of this crosswalk.

Please distribute my letter to the Trustees and relevant committee members.

I have reviewed my emails with Brigitte Berger, Village Engineer, and the Board going back to 2017. and also my notes.

I have come to these conclusions and requests:

**I request that the discussion on new lights not be limited to RRFBs but should include the pedestrian initiated light that is used on Lake Street and Vattman Park for school children crossing Lake Street. Seniors are also a vulnerable and unique population and should receive the same consideration for their needs in crossing a busy street. (more discussion below)**

**I request that the discussion also include the crosswalk which is now both unsafe and illogical in its design. There are many engineering questions to consider and answer before thinking the problems will be solved by adding RRFBs.**

**I request that as the Village undertake a project to discuss all the best options for the crosswalk and the lights that the Village surveys the residents on the east side of Sheridan Road and involve them in discussions with the Engineering and Transportation Committees as best solutions are discussed.**

I passed your newsletter to many residents at 1500 and our office manager sent it to other buildings along Sheridan Road.

I believe the Village Board will receive many letters supporting the RRFBs for the crosswalk in response to the information you provided.

I went through my file of emails and articles and I still believe that a pedestrian initiated stop light is the best solution for traffic control.

You state that the traffic study did not support a pedestrian initiated stop light - which I have thought to be the best solution since

I began conversing with Brigitte Berger, Engineer, in 2017.

The traffic study you referenced was done 4/18/17. I wrote emails then that many people I know, myself included, don't walk across the street because cars don't stop if you are at the curb waiting to cross, even with the flashing yellow light. By law the cars don't have to stop unless the pedestrian has stepped off the curb and is standing in the street. I don't do this - would be foolish because the cars are going 30 mph, bicycles are often whizzing by in the bike lane, parked trucks are often obscuring view of traffic in both directions.

I said then, and I believe still, that the traffic study was not representative of how many people would use the crosswalk if it was safe to use, properly configured, and had a stop light.

RRFBs are an inadequate solution for many reasons - even if it is the less expensive solution and the only one the Board is currently considering.

The problem is much bigger than the lights as you stated -

**"If you have ever walked the disjointed crosswalk that requires pedestrians to face away from oncoming traffic, you know how dangerous it can be."**

Replacing the lights does not address the dangerous and poorly designed crosswalk. Your paragraph does not describe any discussion of the crosswalk itself. This is complicated with the driveways from 1500 on the east and the entrance/exit driveway of the Plaza on the west..

The placement of the crosswalk and the lights is also complicated by the fact that trucks often park in the street - from waste pick-up, to delivery trucks to moving vans. The vision of drivers to see what is ahead of the parked trucks, or who is exiting the Plaza or 1500 is often obscured and often all problems are occurring at the same time.

In my records it appears you last met with residents of 1500 to look at the crosswalk/lights on Nov. 7. 2019. We appreciated meeting with you.

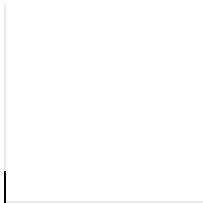
I do not find any communications since then. I do not know if these issues have been previously on the Board agendas and have been discussed.

While I do appreciate your survey and your newsletter, I feel that the residents along Sheridan Road should have been notified and involved by the Village Board in any discussions that have been held this year. Is this the first time this appears on the agenda -- without any information to residents and requests for our input to the Board? If so, then the discussion about only RRFBs will be very incomplete and shortsighted. The decision to put up RRFBs is a partial solution to a much bigger engineering and design problem. It may make the board members feel that RRFBs are enough to make the crosswalk safer, but it is not a sufficient solution. I have many articles that show that drivers often don't know what the RRFBs mean - do they Stop?. Do they just slow down? Do they respect that cars should stop for a pedestrian in the walkway? You saw yourself that a pedestrian in the middle of the crosswalk was ignored by an approaching car who continued around the pedestrian. I have seen this myself many times.

The question of RRFBs - to my knowledge- were last on the agenda in 2017. I wrote to the Board and I was going to attend the meeting. I received a call on 10/13/17 that this item was removed from the agenda because the Plaza was then for sale. The explanation was that new owners might want to reconfigure the entrance/exit to the Plaza on Sheridan Road.

Three years have passed. Residents should be involved in any discussions before the Board makes any decision about the proposed RRFBs. And this is not enough. The discussion about improving and changing the crosswalk should precede any decisions about lights. We need a complete, safer solution.

Thank you,  
Gail Shorr  
1500 Sheridan Road,  
[gjshorr@gmail.com](mailto:gjshorr@gmail.com)



**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Crossing Sheridan Rd  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:30 AM

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**From:** Gail Ann Duberchin <gduberchin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Crossing Sheridan Rd

Hi,

I am a resident of 1420 Sheridan Rd and I hope you can resolve this issue with appropriate lights and a straight crosswalk.

Thank you,  
Gail Duberchin  
unit 5i

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Flashing Light  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:39 AM

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**From:** John Albin <johnalbincpa@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 8:29 AM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Flashing Light

Hello,

I live at 1500 Sheridan and shop in Plaza de Lago. I walk to the plaza and have to cross Sheridan Road to get there. There is a marked walkway, but many times the passing cars pay little or no attention to people trying to cross the road.

Please support installing a flashing light activated by a switch at the crossing. It will make the journey for myself and the many others living on the East side of Sheridan Road much safer.

John Albin

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Installation of RRFB on Sheridan Rd.--for Nov. 10th Village Board mtg.  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:11 AM

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**From:** Donald Barshis <jandonbar@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Cc:** joelforwilmette@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Installation of RRFB on Sheridan Rd.--for Nov. 10th Village Board mtg.

Dear Mr. Braiman:

We are long-time residents of Wilmette (42 years) and currently reside at the large condo complex at 1500 Sheridan Road. Along with fellow residents from the area, we have been working with Village Trustee Joel Kurzman to provide a safer pedestrian crosswalk between Plaza del Lago and the east side of Sheridan Road as both Sheridan Road drivers and those entering or exiting the shopping center rarely stop for pedestrians at the existing marked crosswalk. None of us want a repeat of the tragic death in 2014 of a resident from one of our buildings who attempted to cross Sheridan at that location.

Trustee Kurzman and local residents support the installation of a pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) similar to the one on Wilmette Avenue and Prairie. This signal, along with a single marked crossing lane, while not as effective as a stoplight, will be a significant and cost-effective improvement over the current split crosswalk markings and provide the residents in our high-density area with a fighting chance against traffic as we try to cross Sheridan to shop or return to our homes. Thank you.

Jan and Don Barshis  
1500 Sheridan Rd., Unit 5E  
847-256-5132

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please look favorable on Joel's Request for a yellow-walking light in front of 1500 Sheridan.  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:17 AM

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**From:** CARL ADRIANOPOLI <cadriano@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Please look favorable on Joel's Request for a yellow-walking light in front of 1500 Sheridan.

Dear Mayor Braimanm:

We know it will cost a few thousand or more, and these are scarcity times, but we really have all seen too many motorists drive right around, often speeding up, when older adults and even children are crossing from in front of the condos on Sheridan, going to Plaza Del Lago. Someone is going to get seriously injured, or worse. Spoken with no false drama.

Carl Adrianopoli. PhD (1500 Sheridan Rd., Unit TC)

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: RRFB's for Crosswalk on Sheridan Road  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:25:57 AM

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**From:** Chuck Southwick <[chuck.southwick@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.southwick@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <[braimanm@wilmette.com](mailto:braimanm@wilmette.com)>  
**Subject:** RRFB's for Crosswalk on Sheridan Road

Hi Mike.

I am the President of the 1500 Sheridan Road HOA. I am writing you to ask that you support the addition of RRFB's to our crosswalk at 1500 Sheridan. The current warning is better than it was 3 years ago but still very dangerous for people crossing to and from The Plaza.

Thank you

Chuck Southwick

[chuck.southwick@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.southwick@gmail.com)

**From:** [Braithman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sheridan Rd crosswalk  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:24 AM

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

**From:** Virginia Noyes <[vnoyes@ameritech.net](mailto:vnoyes@ameritech.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** Braithman, Michael <[braithmanm@wilmette.com](mailto:braithmanm@wilmette.com)>  
**Subject:** Sheridan Rd crosswalk

Thank you for your commitment to the citizens of Wilmette. Hope you will headline and energetically support the placing of a flashing light at the Sheridan Road Crosswalk across from Plaza de Lago. Thank you. Virginia M Noyes; 1500 Sheridan Rd., Wilmette

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sheridan Road Pedestrian Crossing to Plaza del Lago-Pedestrian Activated Flashing Yellow Light at Crossing, etc.  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:51 AM

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**From:** Marilyn B. Baker-Buffintgon <mdblcs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 6, 2020 4:20 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Sheridan Road Pedestrian Crossing to Plaza del Lago-Pedestrian Activated Flashing Yellow Light at Crossing, etc.

Dear Mr. Braiman,

A fellow resident at 1500 Sheridan Rd alerted my husband and I to the fact that among the items being considered at next Tuesday night's meeting, regards the Sheridan Road pedestrian crossing to Plaza del Lago opposite our north parking lot. My husband and I have often used this crossing since it was installed a few years ago. We consider it an important asset to the residents of our building and to those of all the buildings east of Sheridan Rd. My parents, Dr. and Mrs. Jack M. Buffington, lived in this building as well, before passing away. (My mother in 2007 and my father in 2018). Before this crossing was installed, my mother fell while attempting to cross to meet my sisters (also Wilmette residents) and I at Convito's for a Mother's Day Luncheon. By the grace of God, she was not hit by oncoming cars because bicyclists surrounded her until she could get up.

We understand that what is being considered, is to add ***a pedestrian activated flashing yellow light*** to alert drivers that someone wishes to use the crossing. I have often thought that this would be a major improvement, and Mr. Kurzman has suggested that those who agree drop an email to you, the Wilmette Village Manager, before next Tuesday. Please consider doing this for the safety of all involved. It can be a busy spot, with cars turning into Plaza del Lago from the middle lane from the south, and cars turning into Plaza del Lago from the north. We anticipate it will get even trickier with people coming to Plaza del Lago for carryout from ***Clucker's Charcoal Chicken and Rosati's Pizza***. (Which we welcome by the way-my husband and I drove up to Highwood right before Halloween to try ***Clucker's Charcoal Chicken***. Quite good! Are they coming to Plaza del Lago?)

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Be Well!

Marilyn and James Langworthy  
1500 Sheridan Rd., Unit 5D  
Wilmette, IL. 60091-1844

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sheridan Road Pedestrian Crossing  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:25:42 AM

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

From: Larry Hossack <ljh2city@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 9:15 AM  
To: Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>; joelforwilmette@gmail.com  
Subject: Sheridan Road Pedestrian Crossing

Mr. Mike Brairman, Village Manager

I am writing to support the possibility of the Village installing a pedestrian crossing light on Sheridan Road at the north side of the Plaza de Lago. Mr.Kurzman suggested that comments be sent to you.

We have lived at 1500 for about five years and try to support the various businesses across the street. As an elderly person we are always concerned about walking particularly to Convito. It is my understanding that there has been a death years ago and an accident could certainly happen. I am encouraged that this improvement is being considered and support it fully. It is my opinion that the village should be doing everything possible to encourage the success of this retail complex.

Thank you for considering my comments and the others that you probably will receive. May I say that i often have commented about my positive reactions to Village affairs since we moved to Wilmette, communicating directly with Mr. Kurzman and others on the Council and at Village

Larry Hossack  
847 256-2731  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sheridan Road safety at Plaza Del Lago  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 12:00:07 PM

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**From:** Willard A Fry <w-fry@northwestern.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Sheridan Road safety at Plaza Del Lago

Dear Mr. Braiman,

Thank you for your communication of November 6<sup>th</sup>. I have lived at 1500 for over 7 years. You have hundreds of Wilmette residents at risk. It's not a question of if but when the next bad accident will occur.

I thought that your letter was succinct and well composed.

I would favor the RFFBs. Also the crosswalk at the north end of my building needs to be reconfigured.

Maybe a similar action at the north end of 1630, where 10<sup>th</sup> Street ends at Sheridan Road.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Fry

Willard A. Fry, M.D.

[w-fry@northwestern.edu](mailto:w-fry@northwestern.edu)

**From:** [Braithman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of flashing signal at pedestrian crossing at 1500-1600 Sheridan Road/Plaza del Lago  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 9:26:05 AM

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**From:** Charlotte Hayes <hayes140@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Braithman, Michael <brraithmanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** Support of flashing signal at pedestrian crossing at 1500-1600 Sheridan Road/Plaza del Lago

Dear Mr. Braithman,

It has been called to my attention that the Wilmette Village Board is considering funding a flashing signal to assist pedestrians who cross Sheridan Road at Plaza del Lago.

I write first to express thanks for the existing crosswalk installed at this location a few years ago. I personally live at 1500 Sheridan and am a frequent user of the crosswalk. It has been my experience that drivers along Sheridan observe the crosswalk remarkably well, and I have been most grateful.

Nevertheless, I have often thought that it would be greatly improved if there was a way for pedestrians to signal their wish to cross, especially at night. As many, if not most, of the crossers are senior citizens, I think that this would increase the safety of this crossing immensely.

I am sure that there are many constraints on the Wilmette budget, but I encourage you to share this email with those on the budget committee, in the hope that they will look favorably on this important improvement.

Charlotte Hayes  
1500 Sheridan Road  
Wilmette

[chayes@northwestern.edu](mailto:chayes@northwestern.edu)

**From:** [Braithman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sheridan Road Cross-Walk  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 2:19:42 PM

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**From:** Richards, Jeffrey W. <jrichards@kirkland.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Braithman, Michael <brraithmanm@wilmette.com>  
**Cc:** joelforwilmette@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Sheridan Road Cross-Walk

Mike and Joel,

Hello! My name is Jeff Richards, and I live at 731 Ashland Ave. In addition, my 77-year-old mother earlier this year moved into the 1616 Sheridan Road building.

Ever since my mother moved into the building, I have been very concerned about the “crosswalk” between 1500 Sheridan and Plaza del Lago. In my experience, cars just do not stop for that crosswalk. Cars will sometimes stop, and sometimes not, for the crosswalk next to Langdon park, but for some reason (probably because it isn’t anywhere near a street intersection or a stoplight) cars seem to just completely ignore the crosswalk at 1500 Sheridan.

I personally have had to jump back out of the street with my kids while attempting to cross the street there. I can’t imagine how dangerous that crosswalk is for elderly residents like my mom, who aren’t as physically large as I am, can’t see as well as I can, and aren’t as fast jumping out of the way as someone younger might be able to be. So as I said, I have been very concerned about that crosswalk.

I recently heard the Village is considering installing RRFB rapid-flashing strobe lights for that crosswalk, like those that exist at the school crossing lane at Wilmette Avenue and Pairie Ave. I just wanted to write to register my wholehearted approval for this idea. I think it would be a HUGE improvement.

I know from personal experience driving down Wilmette Avenue during school hours (I have two children at WJHS, so I am often driving down Wilmette Avenue at that time) that those rapid-flashing strobe lights really work. When they go off, they are very visible, and when cars see the flashing lights, they actually slow down and stop for pedestrians.

As a result, I believe those lights would be a big improvement in safety for residents (like my mom) who have to cross Sheridan road at the Plaza del Lago crosswalk.

Thanks very much for considering this proposal, and please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help with this initiative in any way.

Jeff

**Jeffrey W. Richards, P.C.**

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**KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP**

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T +1 312 862 2473 M +1 312 543 2101

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[jrichards@kirkland.com](mailto:jrichards@kirkland.com)

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**From:** [Braithman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Crosswalk on Sheridan Road  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 2:45:30 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tracey Meyer <16301630@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date:** November 9, 2020 at 2:37:07 PM CST  
**To:** "Braithman, Michael" <brraithmanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** **Crosswalk on Sheridan Road**  
**Reply-To:** Tracey Meyer <16301630@sbcglobal.net>

Dear Mr. Braithman:

I send this email on behalf of the Board of Directors and residents at 1630 Sheridan Corporation, located at 1630 Sheridan Road. We understand the Village Board will be discussing the crosswalk just south of 1630 at their meeting tomorrow evening. We express our concerns for a safe cross walk to access the west side of Sheridan Road. Access is important for the Plaza del Lago Shops. The crosswalk currently located adjacent to the the 1500 Sheridan building needs to be more visible to drivers who are not paying attention to pedestrians crossing the street. Likewise, the intersection of the Wilmette Avenue and Sheridan Road is extremely dangerous, especially for residents exiting the 1630 driveway onto Sheridan Road. If you are assessing the safety of Wilmette residents, especially those on the east side of Sheridan Road trying to cross for access to Plaza del Lago or any establishments on the west side of Sheridan, you should consider the intersection at Wilmette Avenue and 10th Street, as well as the cross walk at 1500 Sheridan. This small section of Sheridan Road easily houses over 500 Wilmette constituents. Your consideration for improving both cross walks would be appreciated by all who live, work and play (walk, run, ride bikes) on this section of Sheridan Road.

Thank you for your time.

*Tracey Meyer, CMCA, CAM*  
*Property Manager*

email: tmeyer@chicagoland-inc.com  
Phone: (847) 256-1300 Fax: (847) 256-5352

**1630 Sheridan Corporation**  
1630 Sheridan Road

Wilmette, IL 60091

<http://www.chicagoland-inc.com>

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**From:** [Braiman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: pedestrian crossing at Plaza del Lago  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 1:59:57 PM

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**From:** mamalizzo@aol.com <mamalizzo@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 1:58 PM  
**To:** Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** pedestrian crossing at Plaza del Lago

I reside in the condo at 1616 Sheridan Road here in Wilmette. If a pedestrian-initiated short stop light is not a considered solution to the pedestrian crossing on Sheridan Road at Plaza del Lago, I strongly support the installation fo:

- RRFB - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons
- reconfiguration of the crosswalk (staight across Sheridan Road) and repainting the crosswalk
- better signage approaching the crosswalk

Liz Allan  
1616 Sheridan Road  
Wilmette

**From:** [Braithman, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: cross walk  
**Date:** Monday, November 9, 2020 3:22:46 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Becky Boyer <rboyer934@comcast.net>  
**Date:** November 9, 2020 at 3:09:15 PM CST  
**To:** "Braithman, Michael" <brraithmanm@wilmette.com>  
**Subject:** cross walk

Hello,  
I support making the crosswalk better at Sheridan Road for safer usage for the residents in the condos.  
My mom lives in 1616; I see people attempting to cross all the time and many cars refuse to slow down.  
Please install something that will make cars notice people crossing the street.  
Appreciate it immensely, thank you for your time.  
Becky Boyer