



**City of Golden
Council Memorandum**

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Dan Hartman, Public Works Director

Through: Michael C. Bestor, City Manager

Date: June 6, 2007

Subject: Pedestrian Friendly

We have received a letter from Chris Adams concerning being a really pedestrian friendly town. We received a letter from Chris in March of 2006 and we had a long discussion in at your August of last year. We provided a great deal of information at that time which is attached.

Mr. Adams has requested we follow Best Practice for pedestrian crossings, and he believes that select crossings should be improved. He cites Boulder as an example, and states that Cars enjoy the right of way in Golden and Pedestrians do not. In fact we can not give pedestrians and different right is Golden than state law provides, and they have the exact same rights in Golden as they do in Boulder. I think Mr. Adams wishes us to place the type of signs that say something like “State Law Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” in many crosswalk areas.

We have not done that, and the use of them is not considered “Best Practice”. Some communities have chosen to use them, but others have not. There is no data that shows them to provide a higher level of safety, and there is much debate that they imply that pedestrians have the right to step in front of and stop cars, which is not the law. This provides a expiation that is not the law, and can actually create a condition that is more dangerous than not having the signs.

We will be doing design and improvements to two corridors later this summer, North Washington and Jackson from downtown to the high school. We are planning significant improvement to the bridge over SH 58 as a part of the CDOT replacement. Finally we have requested a audit and designation through Dan Burden and Walkable Communities Inc. Dan is an engineer in Florida originally from Australia who has championed the Walkable communities movement. I would not take any other action prior to the public work shops on Washington and Jackson, and until the Burden audit and recommendations are complete.