

Critics have been vocal about questions the H-T and former community columnist James Haverstock raised about stop signs recently installed at Henderson and Allen near Bryan Park. Both he, and we, have criticized the need for the stop signs and the city council's approval of them over a staff recommendation that they weren't necessary.

Members of the council have defended their action vigorously in e-mails, and neighbors have supported them in online comments and letters to the editor.

Critics have focused on public safety, saying that traffic along that street needed to be slowed down so people " young and old in particular " could safely walk to and from the park.

But safety can be subjective. Besides that, another issue is involved in this story.

A few months before the council voted to approve the **stop sign**, the city public works department put in a traffic island in the middle of Henderson at its intersection with Allen. The island has slowed traffic on Henderson, according to a study by public works, and it gives pedestrians a safe haven halfway across what is a very wide street.

In other words, it makes the area safer for pedestrians to cross Henderson to visit or leave Bryan Park. No objective engineering measure " traffic speed, traffic volume or a history of crashes " supports a **stop sign** in the location.

But the **stop sign** was approved anyway, making the island totally redundant.

The cost to construct the island: \$5,190 out of the general fund.

It's not the **stop sign** in isolation that concerns us or should concern taxpayers. It's that \$5,190 of taxpayers' money was spent for what turns out to be no good reason.

That's wasteful, and the neighbors' insistence and the council's action suggest they don't get that.

That's what concerns us.

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Herald-Times, 'Stop sign isn't concern, but wasteful spending is', *Herald-Times* (online), 11 Dec 2008 <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy.monroe.lib.in.us/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/14449B8E17EB69C0>