



Pedestrian Flags Over Dane County

Instructions for Assembling and Repairing Flags

By Ann Clark, Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association

SUPPLIES:

7/16 OR 3/8' DIAM. 3-FOOT PINE DOWEL

12' RED PLASTIC SQUARE

MARKER (Black Sharpie permanent marker)

STAPLE GUN (with 1/4 inch staples—longer ones split the wood)

PLIERS (to pull out bad staples which leave sharp staple ends exposed)

REFLECTORIZED SURFACE TAPE

HOW-TO:

Mount flag on dowel shaft about 1" down from top of dowel (otherwise people grab there and eventually pulls flag out of staples)

6 staples—2 near the top and bottom where most stress, other three evenly spaced

Be sure to place them carefully and vertically—it's a small target. Press hard—they need to go most of the way in to hold. You can pull out the "bad" ones with pliers, or sometimes hammer them all the way in if they are most of the way.

Repair: mostly re-stapling where there's a hole where the staple used to be, especially at the top or bottom of the flag. We are experimenting with wrapping heavy transparent tape around the dowel at the top and bottom. Something to think about later, but we don't know yet whether it will cut the repair needs.

REFLECTORIZING:

Over the summer (and especially in the first 2 to 3 months of a flagged crosswalk when the theft rate may be high) with the long evening light, being seen in the dark isn't much of a consideration. The high cost of reflectorized tape and nuisance of putting it on flags conspire to delay its advent on your flags. However, by fall when it's getting dark during the afternoon rush hour, you may want to consider adding this element to protect pedestrians during normal walking hours when there is heavy traffic.

Reflectorized tape is not very flexible (don't try to bend it around the dowel as it cracks) and sticks to itself but not long to other surfaces (it curls). You don't need much for it to be visible, but better that it's lower so it's in the low headlight beam and can reflect. We have put ours on the inner bottom corner of the plastic.

We are still working this out, but here's our current method. We have attached a triangular strip at the bottom of the flag to the inner corner where its weight doesn't pull on the staples. The tape extends a quarter inch or so past the flag edge and therefore sticks to itself on the two outer edges. A long narrow slit or a couple of hole punches in the flag just WITHIN the third edge (if it shows it will weaken the plastic) will anchor the third side of the tape. Then we have stapled the flag (and reflector tape) to the dowel as usual.

For more information about Pedestrian Flags Over Dane County, contact the Safe Community Coalition, P.O. Box 6652, Madison, WI 53716-0652; www.safecommunitycoalition.org; 256-6713; or Ann Clark, Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association at 238-5612, annclark@tds.net.