

**Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, August 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

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Members Present: Neil Ferrari  
Jim Grosh  
Barbara Lusky  
Steve Schlickman  
Alan Swanson, Chairman

Members Absent: Ed Gubman  
Amy Panici

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director, Engineering  
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant  
Brian King, Deputy Police Chief  
Thom Dworak, Traffic Coordinator

Also Present: Thirty-eight residents:  
  
Charles Martin, 900 Seneca  
Siobhan Ni Bhuachalla, 2307 Lake  
Alan Rosenfield, 2311 Lake  
Maureen Shea, 2311 Lake  
James Kiamos, 2307 Lake  
Patrick Flaherty, 1520 Lake  
Tony Lorenz, 2335 Thornwood  
Mary Jeffers, 2627 Lake  
John & Linda Relias, 2500 Kenilworth  
Susanne Feret, 2611 Kenilworth  
Allen Bryant, 901 Romona Road  
Jack Martin, 2319 Lake  
Dennis O'Brien, 2323 Kenilworth  
John Tosarello, 2525 Lake  
Allan W. Fagan, 1510 Lake  
Jim Gill, 2441 Iroquois  
John Dold, 2336 Thornwood  
Jai Liriano, 2351 Thornwood  
Dale Cohodes, 2531 Kenilworth  
Henry Zander, 1525 Lake  
Michael & Yvonne Harada, 2510 Kenilworth  
Laura Polkoff, 1514 Lake  
Mary Hart, 1518 Lake  
Patrick Crawford, 1612 Lake  
Sauverio Marinaro, 3116 Lake

Richard Duncan, 2924 Indianwood  
Colleen Remsberg, 2939 Indianwood  
Stephanie Van Winkle, 2624 Kenilworth  
Claire Van Winkle, 2624 Kenilworth  
Sophie Van Winkle, 2624 Kenilworth  
Pete Van Winkle, 2624 Kenilworth  
Emad Fahmy, 2031 Lake  
Terry Coughlin, 2547 Lake  
Carol Coughlin, 2547 Lake  
M. Rudy, 1618 Lake  
J. Thanos, Ridgeview Restaurant, 827 Ridge

***Call to Order at 7:12 p.m.***

**1. Review of July 23, 2003 minutes.**

**Motion to approve the July 23, 2003 minutes.**

***Motion by:*** Commissioner Ferrari

***Second:*** Commissioner Lusky

***Discussion:*** Commissioner Schlickman requested the minutes state that he is in tentative agreement of the three lane section.

***Action:*** Approved by unanimous voice vote

**2. Lake Avenue Traffic Study**

- ***Chairman Swanson*** opened the discussion by introducing Mr. LaPlante of TY Lin International and Mr. Chris Snyder of the Cook County Highway Department. Ms. Mayerhofer provided information on the meeting that took place the week prior with the Cook County Highway Department.
- ***Chris Snyder*** of the Cook County Highway Department (CCHD) provided information on their resurfacing project slated for Lake Avenue in 2004 and stated the CCHD is flexible in working with the Village.
- ***Chairman Swanson*** asked Mr. Snyder if there were any options that would not be considered by the County. Mr. Snyder stated that by his study of traffic data and observation, Lake Avenue functions well as a four lane roadway. The County has reservations about making it any less than four lanes.
- ***Commissioner Schlickman*** stated that TY Lin suggested the three lanes could work, which differs from the County's position. This is a cause for confusion. John LaPlante stated that he has the same concerns the County has and that there is not a significant difference in opinion.

- **John LaPlante** provided a presentation on the Lake Avenue Study. **[See attached presentation.]**
- Deputy Chief Brian King provided a presentation entitled “Traffic Enforcement Programs.” **[See attached presentation.]**

### **Commissioner’s Comments / Questions**

- **Commissioner Grosh** asked what percentage of officers is assigned traffic on a typical day, to which Deputy Police Chief King responded one or two cars of five that are on the street. Deputy King qualified this by saying it depends on the time of day and the other activity around the Village.
- **Commissioner Lusky** asked if the cameras might be an option for Police Enforcement. Officer Dworak and Deputy King responded that the last time this issue was reviewed, the requirements for ticketing were very time intensive. Recent requirements may have changed. They will look into the new statute that is in effect for enforcement utilizing cameras.
- **Commissioner Schlickman** asked if the Police Department needed additional resources. Deputy King responded that managing their current resources was more important. In addition, he stated that the Police Department is investigating some grants for a speed trailer. Deputy King stated that the Department had become weak in the area of traffic enforcement on Lake Avenue, but recently began the STEP program.
- A discussion ensued concerning the impact increased enforcement will have on Lake Avenue; including how long the effect will last and how often enforcement needs to recur.
- **Commissioner Schlickman** asked John LaPlante to clarify if the 900 vehicles per hour is a current count or 2020 count, to which John LaPlante responded a projection for 2020. Mr. LaPlante stated that the CATS counts only project a modest 3% increase in traffic.

### **Resident Comments**

- **Siobhan Ni Bhuachalla** (Hunter and Lake) thanked the Police Department for enforcement, Commissioner Schlickman for supporting the three-lane option and Trustee Chung for attending the meeting. Ms. Ni Bhuachalla quoted several sections from the Village of Wilmette’s Comprehensive Plan, including discussions of quality of life, pedestrian and traffic issues. Ms. Ni Bhuachalla questioned why Wilmette Avenue was just two lanes and suggested that it may be because two Trustees live on Wilmette Avenue. She said the volume of traffic needed to be stopped now rather than make improvements that will encourage additional traffic. She stated the Commission should take their time and not rush into a decision.

- **Patrick Flaherty** (1520 Lake Avenue) stated the speed between Ridge and Green Bay Road is excessive. He stated there are a large number of children who live on these blocks and that the construction traffic is unbearable.
- **Mary Hart** (1518 Lake Avenue) emphasized that the Village has a wonderful grid system that should be left alone to work. She said the traffic restrictions like those at 13<sup>th</sup> and Lake and at Park and Wilmette have a snowball effect. Ms. Hart is not in favor of the three lane section.
- **Father John Pollard** (St. Joseph's Catholic Church & School, 1747 Lake) spoke on behalf of the students and Board. He expressed appreciation for the study and for Police enforcement. He stated that because of the high accident rate, the section of Lake Avenue at Ridge Road should be designated as a school crossing zone.
- **Al Rosenfield** (2311 Lake) suggested a "No Right Turn on Red" at Hunter. He stated that Lake Avenue is very difficult to cross and suggested stop signs as an option.
- **Jim Kiamos** (2307 Lake Avenue) stated that while he would like the three lane option, he believes it will not be viable. He said that speed enforcement should have a positive effect on reducing speeds.
- **Patrick Crawford** (1612 Lake Avenue) thanked the Commission for the study and said that quality of life issues (trees, pedestrian friendliness, and schools) are most important in Wilmette.
- **Sauverio Marinaro** (3116 Lake Avenue) stated the timing of lights at Skokie Boulevard and Hibbard make it difficult to enter and exit driveways.
- A discussion regarding the jurisdiction of Lake Avenue took place. **Chris Snyder** of the Cook County Highway Department stated that the roadway was built in 1921 and has been under County jurisdiction ever since.
- **Emad Fahmy** (2031 Lake ) asked if the center lanes could be used as turn lanes. Mr. Snyder stated that the lane changes into and out of intersections would likely increase accidents.
- **Jack DiClementi** (2509 Lake) asked why Willow Road is only two lanes. Chris Snyder stated that Willow Road is an IDOT facility. Mr. DiClementi also asked why the road needed to be resurfaced so quickly after the last project in the early 90's. **Chairman Swanson** provided some information on the difference between a reconstruction and resurfacing project. Mr. DiClementi also talked about the importance of pedestrian and bicycle issues and requested that the Village / County consider using a surface such as rubber that absorbs noise. **Mr. Snyder** stated that the new asphalt will be pothole free and therefore quieter than the existing pavement. Chairman Swanson provided information about the Village's bicycle plan and map and stated that the Bicycle Task Force is a sub-committee of the Transportation Commission.

- **Charles Martin**, (900 Seneca) requested more information about the accidents, including time of day and direction of travel. He also suggested adding a four way flasher at Hunter and Lake Avenues.
- **Maureen Shea**, (2311 Lake Avenue) said there is a need for additional signage, more aggressive striping, a pedestrian signal at Vatman Park, and an “all-red” stop at the intersections.
- **Siobhan Ni Bhuachalla** (2307 Lake) pointed out that Greenwood Avenue in Park Ridge is a similar road to Lake Avenue in that it has three lanes. She also said that residents need more notice of the meetings.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- **Commissioner Schlickman** said he is concerned that two of the commissioners are absent from the meeting and requested a continuance to the September meeting. He asked Staff and Mr. LaPlante to “repackage” the information to indicate pros and cons of each option. He still favors the three lane option and would like detailed information on why it wouldn’t work.
- **Commissioner Grosh** stated that a balance is necessary to keep people safe and to move traffic. He said he understands the quality of life issues and believes an engineered solution needs to be considered.
- **Commissioner Lusky** agreed that given the amount of information provided another meeting should be scheduled. She stated that people and trucks are entitled to travel on Lake Avenue, which is an arterial road, but feels it is important to accommodate pedestrians where possible. Commissioner Lusky also expressed concerned with the high accident rates at some of the intersections.
- **Commissioner Ferrari** said that Staff brought the issue of accidents to the Commission’s attention and the residents brought the issue of speed. The Commission is trying to address both issues. Speed has already been addressed through Police enforcement. He continued to say that Lake Avenue is not classified as a residential street and that the Commission must be careful not to make a decision that would encourage cut through traffic into other areas. A decision needs to be reached by balancing all of these issues.
- **Chairman Swanson** asked if the resurfacing could wait another year, given the time constraints the Commission is under. **Ms. Mayerhofer** responded that the Village had requested the resurfacing work to be completed in 2004, so as not to conflict with the reconstruction of Sheridan Road in 2005/06. **Chairman Swanson** provided a history of the Balanced Growth Study prepared by IDOT, which was intended to be a planning tool. He stated the accident data at Ridge indicates a significant, critical concern. Hunter data indicates a high accident rate, but not as critical as Ridge Road. He stated the three lane

section would not work. Chairman Swanson encouraged continued speed enforcement on Lake Avenue and suggested further investigation of the accidents at the intersections. He concluded by saying the residents brought forth some good suggestions, including a pedestrian signal at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and a “No Turn on Red” at Hunter and Lake Avenue. He directed Staff to look at the warrants regarding these suggestions.

- **Trustee Chung** addressed the Commission stating he looks forward to another meeting next month. He suggested a moratorium on turning restrictions, because they have a butterfly effect that moves traffic into other areas.
- **Chairman Swanson** summarized the tasks for the next meeting including a narrative on the choices (pros and cons), look at warrants for ped signal at 15<sup>th</sup> and Lake Avenue, and the warrants for a “No Right Turn on Red” at Hunter Avenue.

### 3. **Locust Road Traffic Calming**

- **Chairman Swanson** stated that based on the data, an additional hump is not supported, therefore not recommended by the Commission. **Commissioner Ferrari** asked Staff to prepare a final letter to the Locust Road residents on the outcome of the survey.

### 4. **Kenilworth and Thornwood Traffic Calming**

In light of the late hour, this agenda item was tabled until a future meeting.

### 5. **Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting**

**Next meeting is Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at 7:00 PM.**

***Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Schlickman***

***Second: Commissioner Grosh***

***Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.***

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.