

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Barbara Lusky
Alan Swanson, Chairman
Jim Grosh
Amy Panici
Steve Schlickman

Members Absent: Neil Ferrari
Ed Gubman

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director, Engineering
Jorge Cruz, P.E., Asst. Dir. of Engineering
Bob LaMantia, Deputy Police Chief

Also Present: Tom Kaeser, TY Lin International
Jim Sturrock, TY Lin International

Call to Order at 7:07 p.m.

1. Review of November 20, 2003 minutes.

Motion to approve the November 20, 2003 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Panici

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Discussion: None

Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote**

2. Green Bay Road Traffic Signal Improvements

- Chairman Swanson turned the discussion to Ms. Mayerhofer and Mr. Kaeser for introduction. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the packet contained a question and answer sheet that addressed the Commission's comments from the November meeting. The discussion began with Lake Avenue.

Lake Avenue

- Ms. Mayerhofer requested consideration of another option to the previously discussed (four lane) option at Lake Avenue, which

includes widening the west leg of the intersection to five lanes. This option is referred to as "Version 2."

- Version 2 would require removing the center barrier median and flashing crossing signal on the east leg of the intersection to accommodate a separate left turn lane. The east leg is wide enough for five lanes, without having to widen the street. The west leg would require widening by four to six feet on either side of the street to accommodate five lanes. This option has several benefits including, more capacity for westbound traffic, does not require right-of-way, and does not require a separate southbound to westbound right turn lane and bus turnout on the north side of Lake Avenue.
- Version 1 includes reducing westbound traffic to one lane on the east leg of the intersection. In order to accommodate the southbound to westbound right turners, a separate right turn lane will be required, which includes property acquisition, moving a large traffic controller, relocating the bus stop and building a small "pork chop" island. Another concern is that one lane westbound is not as efficient as two westbound lanes through the intersection.
- Mr. Kaeser discussed the westbound to northbound turning movement and concluded that the right turn volumes do not require a separate right turn lane for northbound Green Bay Road.
- Mr. Swanson asked if Version 1 would clear the westbound queue, to which Mr. Kaeser stated that it would clear, but is a level of service "D."
- Commissioner Schlickman asked at which location two lanes merge to one lane west of the intersection in Version 2. Mr. Kaeser stated that the lane drop would occur west of the gas station. Chairman Swanson stated that two lanes would be more effective moving cars through the intersection.
- Commissioner Panici expressed concern about the location of the alley and Park Avenue relative to the merging traffic.
- Commissioner Schlickman stated that some residents may prefer the first version of Lake Avenue (with four lanes), because of pedestrian ability to cross Lake Avenue.
- A discussion ensued concerning what impact widening would have on the on-street parking spaces on the south side of Lake Avenue. Although the speculation was that parking may not be affected, the consultants will scale out the improvements to make sure.
- Chairman Swanson and the Commission concurred that Version 2 looks like a viable option, but should be drawn to larger scale and compared side by side with Version 1. Staff and TY Lin will provide a drawing of the intersection that completely examines the impacts of widening, including curb relocation, parking removal, the details of the merge and queue lengths.
- Chairman Swanson asked what the price difference between Version 1 and 2 would be. Mr. Kaeser stated the costs would be similar.

Central Avenue

- Mr. Kaeser described the revised proposal at Central Avenue which includes a westbound combination through and right turn lane, relocating the bus route from Green Bay Road to Park Avenue, and constructing a bus turnout on the southeast quadrant of the intersection, just east of the tracks.
- Some adjustments at Park Avenue and Wilmette Avenue will be required to accommodate the southbound to westbound turning movement by PACE buses.
- In a meeting with PACE, it was determined that a bus stop could be located on the northwest corner of Central and Green Bay Road, which would serve the patrons currently using Wilmette Avenue.
- Commissioner Schlickman asked how the proposed bus turnout on the southeast corner would affect the new multi-use path. Ms. Mayerhofer responded that the bus turnout would be in the same location where the PACE bus currently stops, adjacent to the sidewalk area west of the Village Hall entrance.

Wilmette Avenue

- Similar to Central Avenue, the northernmost westbound lane will be a combination through and right-hand turn lane.
- The rest of the intersection will remain the same except for the eastbound interior lane, which will be a left turn lane only, instead of the combination through and left turn lane as currently exists.

Linden Avenue

- Mr. Kaeser stated that one of the questions the Commission had at the last meeting was what consequences of not including Linden Avenue in the proposal might be. Mr. Kaeser stated that the level of service would be still acceptable, however, the ICC would likely have concerns about its lack of consistency with the other intersections.
- Mr. Sturrock clarified that the proposal will allow left turns only on the designated green arrow. Commissioner Panici asked if the signals would allow combination through and left turn traffic in the same direction, in the absence of opposing left turns. Mr. Sturrock stated "yes."
- A discussion ensued concerning the intersection of Poplar Drive and Linden Avenue and the frequency that vehicles block the intersection. Other than traffic enforcement, there is not much that can be done to prevent this from happening.
- Commissioner Panici asked if Linden had a higher cost than other intersections. Ms. Mayerhofer stated the cost is included in the grant request, which is approximately \$800,000 for the entire project.

- Commissioner Grosh asked if anything could be done to modify the severe grade at Linden Avenue. Mr. Sturrock explained that changing the railroad grade could not be easily accomplished.
- A discussion concerning the process to present the Green Bay Road proposal to the Village Board followed. It was agreed that the proposal should include the pros and cons of the Lake Avenue options (Version 1 and 2), including detailed information of the two proposals. Chairman Swanson stated that a modified intersection design study should also be conducted.

Motion to recommend that this plan be presented for the Board's consideration and to be sent back to the Commission for public comment.

Motion by: Commissioner Schlickman

Second: Commissioner Grosh

This motion was withdrawn, before a vote was taken.

- A formal recommendation on the Green Bay Road Signal Improvements was deferred until the February meeting when more detailed information will be presented.

3. Old Business

The following items were briefly discussed:

- Lake Avenue Resurfacing Project: Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the project has been deferred by Cook County until 2005 and that the County is currently conducting an independent review of the Village's requests.
- The Open Meetings Act was discussed, including the prohibition of using e-mails to conduct Commission business.
- The 2500 block of Greenwood Avenue has petitioned the Village to restrict parking, because of extensive use of on-street parking during school hours. This will be discussed in February.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Panici

Second: Commissioner Lusky

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.