

**Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.**

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Members Present: Amy Panici, Chairperson  
Paul Chouinard

Jim Grosh  
Clay Weaver

Members Absent: Mark Wagstaff  
Eileen Miller-Girson

Staff Present:  
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II  
Ron Andrews, Police Department

Also Present: Stephen Vivian, 801 Ouilmette  
Arlene Donohue, 2111 Schiller  
Amy Booth, 2731 Lincoln Lane  
Mary Bautzmann, 2000 Schiller  
Jeannine Freeman, 1916 Schiller  
Bob Surman, 2124 Schiller  
Lisa Meyer, 2133 Schiller  
Cheryl L. O'Brien, 2210 Schiller

Chairperson Panici called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. Review of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the June 8, 2005 minutes.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Chouinard

**Second:** Commissioner Grosh

**Discussion:** Chairperson Panici asked for a clarification provided by Ms. Mayerhofer.

**Action:** Approved by unanimous voice vote

**2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes**

- Ms. Reilley mentioned that the success of the "bike-to-soccer day" has led to scheduling another event on September 10, 2005.

**3. Central School –Petition for School Zone Flashing Beacons**

- Chairperson Panici welcomed the audience and asked staff to summarize the issue. Ms. Mayerhofer provided a brief description of the information in the packets.
- Chairperson Panici turned the discussion over to the audience. Ms. Cathy Albrecht, 906 Forest, asked for clarification on the location of the school beacons. Ms. Mayerhofer stated the purpose of the beacons is to warn motorists they are entering a school zone. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the beacons will have to be engineered to fit within the constraints of the parkway, but that in general they would be located in the vicinity of the existing school zone signs.
- Cynthia Sawyer, 907 Lake, stated she is in support of the beacons, because the school crossing at 9<sup>th</sup> and Lake also serves St. Francis School. She said many St. Francis students go home for lunch as well.
- Officer Andrews stated that the Police Department is in favor of the beacons, because they add visibility to the school crossing zone during the fall and winter period.
- Sarina McBride, 105 Fourth Street, asked for clarification on when the beacons will flash. Officer Andrews said it would be programmed to match the hours the school crossing guard was on site, which was approximately 8:00 to 9:00 in the morning and 3:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon.
- There was consensus that the existing crossing guard hours adequately met the school's schedule.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked for clarification on the priority of issues being discussed, because the packet also contained recommendations separate from the school beacon. Chairperson Panici suggested that the issue of the beacons be resolved first and then the discussion could be opened up to include other traffic issues surrounding Central School.
- Commissioner Weaver stated he believed the school flashing beacons would bring awareness to the school zone.
- After a brief discussion, there was consensus that the flashing beacons would benefit the area, given the large number of students crossing Lake Avenue and the high volume of vehicles on Lake Avenue.
- Ms. Mayerhofer explained that the flashing signals are in the proposed 2006 budget. The residents asked if they could be installed before the 2006/2007 school year. Ms. Mayerhofer responded that the residents could put in a request to the Village Board, but that a special appropriation would have to be made to pay for the beacons this year. Ms. Mayerhofer also stated that it will take staff some time to design, bid and install the signals, so the earliest they could be installed is later this fall.

**Motion to support the request for flashing beacons for the school zone established for the crossing at Lake Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Miller-Girson

**Second:** Commissioner Grosh

**Action:** Approved by unanimous voice vote

- The Committee continued to discuss the other traffic issues at Central School. Officer Andrews outlined several of the issues in his memorandum, including the fact that safety is everyone's number one concern. He recommends moving all bus staging to 9<sup>th</sup> Street and opening Central Avenue up for parent pick up and drop off.
- Chairperson Panici asked if the neighbors of the area were asked about this change, to which the audience responded they would support the change because of the tremendous congestion currently on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The parents in the audience continued to state they would help in any way possible to get the school district's support.
- It was clarified that the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street would remain no parking and the east side would have available parking all day. The angled staff parking on the west side of the street would not be impacted. The buses could use a combination of the turnout and the area adjacent to the curb for loading and unloading.
- Chairperson Panici asked about the timing of implementing this change, to which Ms. Mayerhofer stated she and the Police Department would work with the school on making the changes before the school year began.
- Ms. McBride asked for a clarification on what would happen on Central Avenue. Chairperson Panici recommended signing the north side of Central School as no parking during the morning and afternoon pick-up and drop-off and leaving the south side for neighborhood and visitor parking. She said she did not want to discourage parents from parking on the south side of Central Avenue.
- Officer Andrews stated he observed summer school traffic in the manner being permanently proposed and it worked beautifully.
- A discussion ensued concerning the kindergarten pick up and drop off during the noon hours. It was determined that the buses could use 9<sup>th</sup> Street and the parents could use Central Street and walk to pick up their children at the kindergarten entrance. The

details of the kindergarten pick up and drop off will be worked out between the school district and the Police Department.

- Commissioner Chouinard asked about converting a portion of the green space into off-street parking. Chairperson Panici suggested the negative impacts associated with removing valuable playground area was not justified in her opinion.
- Commissioner Weaver's perspective is that the parking on Central Avenue is very tight and that the congestion at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> and Central is a safety concern.
- Officer Andrews brought up his second suggestion about the ability for vehicles to travel north between Greenleaf and Central Avenues during school morning and afternoon pick up and drop off. He suggested making the entire section from Lake Avenue to Linden Avenue one way southbound. (The section of 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Greenleaf to Linden Avenue is currently southbound for St. Francis School.)
- Commissioner Chouinard asked why this was section was missed, to which Chairperson Panici clarified that the two sections were signed at different times.
- There was consensus from the Commission that the section being discussed should be made one-way southbound for the same time period. The Commission asked staff to inform St. Francis School of this change.
- Commissioner Grosh asked staff what the traffic volumes were on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, to which staff said too many vehicles for the width of the street.
- Ms. Mayerhofer asked who the resident contact would be moving forward. Cathy Albrecht responded that she would be the appropriate contact.
- At Chairperson Panici's request, staff will report back to the Commission with a status report prior to the next meeting in September.

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

- Ms. Mayerhofer and Ms. Reilley provided traffic counts on Park Avenue, south of Wilmette Avenue for the Commission's review. This is follow-up to a study that dates back to 2001/2002. The traffic counts and speeds taken in 2005 show a decrease from the baseline counts in 2001. This indicates the changes implemented over the past couple of years have worked. The Commission did not feel that further action was necessary at this time.
- Chairperson Panici informed the Commission that Rachel Nocera will be the new appointment to the Commission.
- Ms. Mayerhofer provided an update on the Lake Avenue pedestrian signal and indicated the Municipal Services Committee

(MSC) voted to move the signal to between Park Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. She stated the jurisdictional transfer of Lake Avenue from Ridge Road to Park Avenue is being discussed at an upcoming MSC meeting. The transfer of jurisdiction would take place from the Cook County Highway Department to the Village of Wilmette.

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2005. A permit parking request for Lincoln Lane and traffic calming are the only items currently on the agenda.

#### **5. Feedback**

- None

#### **Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Weaver

**Second:** Commissioner Chouinard

**Action:** Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.