

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Amy Panici, Chairperson
Paul Chouinard
Mark Wagstaff
Jim Grosh
Clay Weaver
Rachael Nocera

Members Absent: Eileen Miller-Girson

Staff Present: George Carpenter, Police Chief
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II

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 July 13, 2005 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh

Second: Commissioner Weaver

Discussion: Comments reflected in revised minutes

Action: **Approved as amended**

2. Lincoln Lane request for resident permit parking

- Chairperson Panici welcomed the audience and asked Ms. Reilley to summarize the petition. Ms. Reilley provided

a summary of the memo and a description of the information in the packet.

- Chairperson Panici asked Chief Carpenter if he saw a problem with the permit parking request. Chief Carpenter stated it is a reasonable request and will not be an enforcement problem.
- Chairperson Panici turned the discussion over to the audience. Mrs. Sally Mann, 2710 Lincoln Lane, stated that the “No Parking 8 am -10 am Monday-Friday” restriction was posted due to students from Regina Dominican High School parking on their street. Littering has also become a problem. Mrs. Mann stated that she has a guest staying with her from Louisiana and she doesn’t know how long her guest will be there. The ability to park on Lincoln Lane in the morning will bring relief.
- Amy Booth, 2731 Lincoln Lane, stated that she and her husband work full time and have three young children. Currently, they have to shuffle cars around to accommodate the nanny. In addition, there is nowhere to park when they have to shovel their driveway during a snow event. Permit parking will bring relief to the current situation.
- Chairperson Panici called for discussion from the Commission. Commissioner Wagstaff and Commissioner Weaver wanted to know if this restriction is necessary. Chief Carpenter stated that there is no doubt the Regina students will utilize the street for parking, if allowed.
- Commissioner Chouinard wanted to know if the street width could accommodate parking and two-way traffic. Linda Reilley confirmed that the street width is 27 feet face of curb to face of curb and poses no problem for two-way traffic with parking. Chairperson Panici concurred.
- Commissioner Nocera made a motion to approve resident permit parking during the hours of 8 am – 10 am, Monday-Friday. Commissioner Wagstaff seconded. The Commission approved the motion with a unanimous voice vote.

3. 2006 Traffic Calming Projects

- Chairperson Panici welcomed the audience and asked Ms. Reilley to summarize the information in the agenda packets. Ms. Reilley gave a summary and stated that the information provided will help the Commission plan for the 2006 traffic calming program. Ms. Reilley stated that a petition was received from the residents of Schiller Avenue asking for traffic calming.
- Chairperson Panici noted that the data includes the locations of the three sites where speed humps have been placed. The information shows the volumes and the 85% speeds prior to the speed humps being installed. This information is to be used as baseline information and a guide for providing traffic calming in other areas.
- Chairperson Panici stated she highlighted three areas including LeClaire Avenue for high speeds and Elmwood Avenue and Hunter Road because they meet the traffic calming criteria based on traffic counts and the 85% speeds. Schiller, Birchwood and Washington could also be considered for traffic calming.
- Chairperson Panici introduced the discussion by asking for resident comment.
- Stephen Vivian, 801 Ouilmette, summarized the petition that was presented. He stated that he has lived in the neighborhood for four years. The neighbors have gotten together to discuss their traffic concerns and understood that in the past, neighbors petitioned for an all way stop, but were unsuccessful. There have been a handful of accidents at the corner of Ouilmette and Schiller Avenues and a young child was hit by a car (no injuries). Traffic and speeds have increased over the years and vehicles constantly disregard the yield signs. Vehicles use Schiller Avenue as a cut-through to avoid Lake Avenue. Mr. Vivian supports the use of speed humps to slow down vehicles and to discourage cut-through traffic.
- Arlene Donohue, 2111 Schiller, stated she has lived on Schiller Avenue for three years and supports slowing down the traffic. She would like speed humps to slow down the Kerrigan Plumbing trucks.
- Chief Carpenter stated that he is a big fan of speed humps and this area is high on his list. Chief Carpenter reported that he has

seen research that traffic calming has a tangible safety benefit. Housing values can go up because prospective homebuyers see the speed humps as an asset. In addition, studies show that there are fewer injuries to pedestrians and children in areas where there are speed humps. Speed humps slow down traffic and discourage cut-through traffic.

- Lisa Meyer, 2133 Schiller, said that she has lived on the block for 14 years and the amount of traffic is significantly less than what it has been since Jewel Food left. Her concern is traffic calming won't solve the problem in that neighborhood. The problem is the need for all-way stop signs at Ouilmette and at Harvard. Accidents occur on Schiller because people are flying through the yield signs. The speed humps are not going to solve that problem.
- Chairman Panici stated that there are strict guidelines that have to be met before all-way stop signs are installed.
- Linda Reilley stated that the entire area was reviewed several years ago by the Transportation Commission after a school bus accident. The Transportation Commission recommended yield signs to be placed on all north south streets from Washington to Schiller Avenue.
- The resident at 2144 Schiller Avenue (corner house) stated she has lived there for six years. The yield sign is ineffective. There is no sidewalk on the north side of Schiller where she lives and children walk in the street to get to the south where there is a sidewalk. People ignore the yield sign. Speed humps will slow the traffic down.
- Jeannine Freeman, 1916 Schiller, stated she lives on the corner of Schiller and the alley. Her garage is on the north alley across from Kerrigan Plumbing. She said that the Dominos pizza drivers never enter or exit on Lake Avenue. The Dominos driver had to slam on the brakes to avoid hitting her son. They fly out of the alley and continue down Schiller Avenue.
- Chief Carpenter stated he will meet with the manager of Dominos Pizza.
- The resident of 2210 Schiller (recent owner) stated the Kerrigan Plumbing trucks speed and agrees that the Dominos Pizza cars do as well. She would like to ban commercial trucks from using the street during certain hours and supports her neighbor's request for stop signs.

- Bob Surman, 915 Amhusrt (will soon live at 2124 Schiller) states he uses Schiller Avenue to avoid the traffic light at northbound Ridge Road to westbound Lake Avenue. Schiller Avenue is used as a short cut to avoid the traffic light.
- Chairperson Panici asked Ms. Reilley when Lake Avenue is reconfigured next year will there be turn lanes and turn arrows for northbound Ridge to go westbound Lake?
- Ms. Reilley responded she wasn't sure. IDOT has jurisdiction over this intersection and Cook County will have to approach the state for approval.
- A resident asked if the north / south streets could be calmed. Chairperson Panici stated that traffic counts and speed data on the north / south streets would have to be collected. The entire area should be looked at the same time. Chairperson Panici stated that all these streets are up for discussion and review for traffic calming.
- The resident at 2000 Schiller stated that she has lived in her house for the last twenty- five years and doesn't see a problem with speeding.
- Commissioner Weaver asked about putting Dominos Pizza on notice stating that their drivers have been observed speeding. Chairman Panici suggested talking to Kerrigan Plumbing and Dominos Pizza to tell them that the residents have had a meeting and that their drivers were observed driving too fast.
- Commissioner Nocera asked if something could be put in writing to these businesses. Chief Carpenter stated that a visit from the Police Department would get the message out.
- Discussion ensued concerning Hunter Road and its classification. Chairman Chouinard wanted to know if it was possible to reclassify Hunter Road.
- Chairperson Panici requested that staff update the traffic counts on LeClaire Avenue and determine the process for changing the classification and reducing the speed limit on Hunter Road. Can we just reduce the speed limit to 25 mph and benefit from some additional enforcement?

- Commission Nocera stated that the traffic signal at Lake and Hunter is too short for north / south traffic. Chairman Panici stated that it will probably be adjusted with the Lake Avenue construction project.
- Chairman Panici wants to look at Hunter, south of Elmwood, because of the width of the street. She would like to consider something other than speed humps like a roundabout.
- Chief Carpenter stated that the speeds between Lake and Elmwood are high. Chairperson Panici requested that counts be taken on Hunter Road again and that the accident history on all of the streets being considered for traffic calming be provided.
- Commissioner Weaver would like to see good baseline data, especially at the intersections and corridors. He continued to say he is concerned about the side streets after the Lake Avenue improvements. We might see more diversions and cut through traffic, unless there is going to be a left turn arrow for northbound Ridge Road to westbound Lake Avenue.
- Commissioner Weaver noticed that these traffic calming areas were complaint-driven in origin. Ms. Reilley explained how complaints are generated and how streets are placed on the traffic calming list.
- Commissioner Nocera asked how to reclassify a street and how to reduce the speed limit. Chairman Panici said that it would come as a recommendation from the Transportation Commission to the Village Board.
- Commissioner Nocera said that she lives at the corner of Hunter Road and Greenwood Avenue and agrees there is a lot of cut through traffic. She stated that many people do not know how to get their street on the list for traffic calming.
- Commissioner Wagstaff stated he feels the residents of the Washington, Birchwood and Schiller area do not obey the yield signs.
- Chief Carpenter confirmed that Lake and Ridge does have a high accident history and vehicles do use the east / west streets as a cut through.

- Discussion took place about traffic east of Ridge Road. Chief Carpenter stated the drainage berms installed on the east side had the unintended effect of calming traffic and slowing speeds.
- Commissioner Grosh stated that after Lake Avenue is completed the traffic patterns may change.
- Commissioner Panici requested that staff look into the intersection of Lake Avenue and Ridge Road and inform the Commission on what is being planned.
- Commission Weaver discussed the effectiveness of yield signs. Chief Carpenter said he shares the same concern about their use. A brief discussion on yield signs ensued.
- Discussion ensued concerning the proposed budget of \$20,000 for the 2006 traffic calming program.

Motion to increase the 2006 traffic calming budget to\$30,000.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh
Second by: Commissioner Nocera

Action: **Approved by voice vote.**

3. Central School Drop Off and Pick Up

The Commission praised the efforts of the Police Department and the Engineering Staff, stating a job well done. The new drop off and pick up traffic pattern is working smoothly.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

Ms. Reilley informed the Commission that the Bike Task Force may come before the Commission soon regarding the abandoned Union Pacific rail line.

Next meeting will be held on October 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

5. Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Chouinard

Second: Commissioner Grosh

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Reilley.