

MINUTES of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, October 19, 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
Jim Grosh
Clay Weaver
Mark Wagstaff
Eileen Miller-Girson
Rachel Nocera

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E. Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant II
George Carpenter,

Also Present: Jim Dadura, 2131 Elmwood
Chuck Smith, 2118 Elmwood

Chairperson Panici called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 14, 2005 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Wagstaff

Second: Commissioner Weaver

Discussion: Comments reflected in revised minutes

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Reilley stated the Bike Task Force is still working on a proposal to the Transportation Commission regarding the proposed five-village trail on the Union Pacific's right-of-way, located on the west side of the Village.

3. Petition for Elmwood Avenue /Traffic Calming

- Chairperson Panici welcomed the audience and asked the petitioner requesting traffic calming on Elmwood Avenue to make a presentation to the Commission.

- Jim Dadura, 2131 Elmwood, began his presentation by indicating there are many children who live on Elmwood Avenue. He and his family are new to Wilmette and were surprised at the amount of traffic on Elmwood Avenue. He said the traffic starts early in the morning and consists of cut-through traffic that often speeds. The Ronald Knox Montessori School project has brought the issue to the forefront. Mr. Dadura summarized his comments by indicating speed, safety and congestion are his primary concerns.
- Chairperson Panici indicated that the Ronald Knox Montessori School proposal will be coming before the Commission at the November meeting. This will be the appropriate time to discuss traffic operations for the school as well as traffic calming on Elmwood Avenue. Chairperson Panici thanked Mr. Dadura for submitting the petition and concluded by saying more discussion will be forthcoming.
- Chairperson Panici continued with the traffic calming discussion and asked Ms. Mayerhofer to review the information in the packets. Ms. Mayerhofer provided a summary of the material and added that Ridge Road and Lake Avenue will both have protected left turn lanes after the County's resurfacing project next year. Lake Avenue will have a separate left turn phase, but Ridge Road will not, because of the low left turn volume.
- Commissioner Nocera asked if the traffic calming techniques from the web-site attachment were all effective methods. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that in their proper application they would likely be effective. Several of the techniques, however, like raised crosswalks and traffic circles, have not been used in Wilmette, because we have not found the correct location for them.
- Commissioner Weaver asked if raised crosswalks would also slow cars down. Ms. Mayerhofer said the purpose of raised crosswalks is to bring awareness to pedestrians, but that slowing cars may be a secondary benefit.
- Chairperson Panici stated she recommends taking incremental steps when implementing traffic calming, because more can be added, but reversing what has been done can be complicated and costly.
- Chairperson Panici began the discussions on LeClaire Avenue, stating the volumes are too low to recommend speed humps or other expensive forms of traffic calming. She asked Chief Carpenter if he would support a speed reduction on LeClaire Avenue. Chief responded that it is more difficult to catch speeders when there is a low traffic volume, but he will work with the Engineering Department to determine if there is a particular time of day that speeding is prevalent.
- A discussion ensued concerning striping on LeClaire Avenue as a means to calm speeding. Although the road is not wide enough to

Approved by the Transportation Commission on November 9, 2005

stripe in a parking lane, staff will ask Public Works if they can stripe in an edge line.

- Chairperson Panici also recommended placement of a speed trailer.

Motion to reduce the speed limit on LeClaire Avenue, south of Lake Avenue from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Motion by: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Second: Commissioner Chouinard

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

- Ms. Mayerhofer will check with Corporation Counsel to determine if Board action is required and will follow up with the Transportation Commission.
- The Commission continued to discuss traffic calming on Hunter Road, north of Lake Avenue. Ms. Mayerhofer reiterated that according to the Village Code, the speed limit can be reduced to 25 miles per hour, because the engineering study supports it.
- Commissioner Nocera stated she would support a speed limit reduction as a first step. Chief Carpenter stated reducing the speed limit alone will not reduce speeding. He said speed reduction in combination with engineering solutions will have the greatest impact on reducing speeds.
- Chairperson Panici stated she would not support speed humps on Hunter Road because of the large volumes. Ms. Mayerhofer concurred indicating her discussions with emergency response staff was that speed humps on Hunter Road could negatively affect response times.
- The Commission agreed that there are several side streets that rely on Hunter Road to access Lake Avenue, therefore Hunter functions like a collector as evidenced by the high volume.
- Chairperson Panici stated that barricades may be necessary if Mallinckrodt trucks use the area to cut-through. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that other than work taking place near the access road on Elmwood, all of the truck traffic should be using Ridge Road. This is where their official construction entrance is located.
- Chuck Smith, 2118 Elmwood Avenue, mentioned there are two things that slow cars down: speed enforcement and speed humps. He also said there is significant truck traffic from Mallinckrodt in the area.
- Mr. Dadura asked if stop signs could be placed to slow traffic. Chief Carpenter explained the negative impacts of installing unwarranted stop signs. They are specifically referenced in a national manual as not being an appropriate tool for slowing traffic.
- A discussion ensued concerning options for striping parking lanes, bike lanes and/or an edge line.

- Commissioner Chouinard asked what the purpose of striping an edge line would be. Chairperson Panici stated it creates a visual feeling of a narrower road, which slows traffic down. An edge line was striped on Locust Road as part of the traffic calming plan.
- Staff will also look at the signal timing at the intersection of Hunter Road and Lake Avenue to see if signal changes can be made to reduce speeding for southbound Hunter Road.
- The Commission asked staff to put together some striping and median options for the wide portion of Hunter Road, north of Lake Avenue. This includes striping left turn lanes at the intersection and a possible center median (structural or striped) that would still allow access to the homes on the west side of the street. The Commission also supports the concept of a raised crosswalk(s) on Hunter Road, in the area of the existing crosswalk near Greenwood. Chairman Panici stated she would not support adding a crosswalk south of Greenwood (where there is not a crossing guard) because it would encourage children to cross. This information will be gathered for the December meeting.
- Staff will continue to take traffic counts in the Birchwood neighborhood, south of Lake Avenue.
- Chairperson Panici asked if we could provide an aerial drawing of Elmwood Avenue from Ridge Road to Lake Avenue for the next meeting with Ronald Knox.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- Chief Carpenter informed the Commission he received a letter from Kerrigan Plumbing indicating they were changing their traffic patterns and installing a GPS system in twenty of their vehicles to track speeds.
- Ms. Mayerhofer informed the Commission that Steve Schlickman, former Commissioner, has been named the Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Authority.
- Ms. Mayerhofer asked if staff should send out a meeting notice for the traffic calming discussion in December. Chairperson Panici stated she thought the Commission needed one more meeting to finalize a traffic calming proposal.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2005. Review of the Ronald Knox Montessori School will be on the agenda.

Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Weaver

Second: Commissioner Wagstaff

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Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.