

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room / Council Chamber at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Clayton Weaver, Chairperson
Paul Chouinard
Eileen Miller-Girson
Rachel Nocera

Members Absent: Jim Grosh
Mark Wagstaff
George Carpenter, Chief of Police

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
Brian King, Deputy Police Chief

Also Present: John LaPlante, TY Lin International
Patty & Norm Hanson, 2200 Greenwood
Jan Gargula, 1050 Cherokee
Peggy Lilly, 2233 Thornwood
Debbie Toledo, 2226 Beechwood
Ted McKenna, 940 Hunter
Veronica Meyer, 2232 Thornwood
Kathy Metzger, 918 Hunter
Deborah Cotton, 1133 Hunter
Patricia Winter, 2117 Greenwood
Dennis Holsapple, 2117 Greenwood
Michuck Shaw, Greenwood Avenue
Jane Westhoff, 2141 Greenwood
Pamela Warnick, 2245 Chestnut
Sid Condit, 914 Cherokee

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 8, 2006 minutes.

Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Review of Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

- The Commission briefly discussed the five-Village bicycle trail. Ms. Reilley indicated the letters from President Canning to the other four Villages were sent out and so far Northbrook has responded.

3. Hunter Road Safety Enhancements-- Discussion

- Chairman Weaver welcomed the residents and asked staff to provide an introduction. Ms. Mayerhofer provided some background information on the traffic calming program and described the process the Commission has gone through to come up with the plan being presented. She indicated that nearly 600 resident notices were sent out. Ms. Mayerhofer introduced John LaPlante, traffic consultant for TY Lin International, who provided a detailed description of the proposed safety enhancements.
- An anonymous resident stated the picket fence at the northeast corner of Hunter and Lake is a safety hazard because of poor site distance.
- The resident from 2232 Greenwood stated parking cars on Hunter Road is a huge mistake. Chairperson Weaver indicated the plan being presented does not change the parking regulations on Hunter Road.
- Norm Hanson, 2200 Greenwood, suggested that this area needs greater enforcement of the speed limit by the Police Department.
- Peggy Lilly, 2233 Thornwood, indicated she is a 25 year resident and that she believes striping the road will have a positive impact. She said it would be premature to construct the median now, because we do not know what impact Mallinckrodt, Lake Avenue and other projects will have on traffic. She is not in favor of the median.
- Sid Condit, 914 Cherokee, suggested one cannot make a left turn out of Cherokee and is also concerned about cut-through traffic.
- Pam Warnick, 2245 Chestnut, is concerned that when Lake Avenue is changed to one lane westbound, cars will use Chestnut as a cut-through route.
- A discussion ensued concerning speed limit reductions and how they are determined. The Committee agreed that the speed limit reduction and the engineering solutions should be implemented at the same time. **ACTION: Engineering staff will gather some information on how speed limits are established for the next meeting.**
- Patricia Winter, 2117 Greenwood, echoed Ms. Lilly's comments and stated she does not support a median. She said it would be a place for kids to hide and would cause problems for turning vehicles. Mr. LaPlante explained that the median would be properly set back from the intersection to allow trucks to complete the turn onto Hunter Road safely. He further explained the purpose

of the median is to alert motorists that they are entering a residential neighborhood and therefore their driving behavior should change.

- A discussion took place regarding the design of the raised crosswalks. Mr. LaPlante explained they are similar to speed humps, except they are flat on top and striped like a crosswalk. Commissioner Chouinard indicated the primary purpose of a raised crosswalk is to bring awareness to the crossing and secondarily slow traffic.
- Debbie Toledo, 2226 Beechwood, said she was not aware of any fatalities on Hunter Road. Painted lines are a great idea, but the speed limit needs to be lowered. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the speed limit will be lowered to 25 miles per hour when the safety enhancements are implemented.
- An anonymous resident stated she hates traveling over the speed humps because they make her slow down. Chairman Weaver stated this means the humps are doing what they are supposed to.
- An anonymous resident stated she is in favor of the crosswalks.
- Ted McKenna, 940 Hunter, thanked the Commission and staff for looking into the traffic problems in the area. He asked Mr. LaPlante to clarify a few details regarding the plan.
- A resident stated there is a big drainage problem near the crosswalk that creates an icing problem. **ACTION: Engineering staff to review.**
- A resident asked for an explanation on what was happening on Lake Avenue, specifically with the bus lanes. Mr. LaPlante described the project and the location of the bus turnouts.
- Jan Gargula, 1050 Cherokee, is concerned cars will cut through Cherokee if they cannot turn left at Hunter Road. Mr. LaPlante indicated the Lake Avenue improvements will provide a dedicated left turn lane for this movement so it will be safer. It was clarified that the counts for a separate left turn signal phase on Lake Avenue at Hunter Road were not met.
- The discussion returned to speed enforcement and Deputy Police Chief Brian King provided information on the traffic enforcement programs in the Village. He stated there are 5000 stops per year, including increased speed enforcement on Lake Avenue. There are requests for Police Department resources all over the Village. He concluded by stating it is often the residents who live in the neighborhood that are speed violators.
- Commissioner Nocera indicated that more communication and public education is necessary. Staff and the rest of the Commission agreed.

- Michuck Shaw of Greenwood Avenue asked why the speed limit could not be reduced to 20 miles per hour. Deputy Chief King stated that artificially low speed limits do not typically work.
- Commissioner Nocera said she agrees with a stepped approach and asked how long it would take to install the striping. Ms. Reilley stated it could be done later this spring or early summer. She indicated that a campaign to make residents aware about traffic safety issues would be very helpful. Lastly, Commissioner Nocera asked if video cameras at the intersection were an option. Deputy Chief King indicated this was a philosophical decision for the Village Board.
- Commissioner Miller-Girson stated she supports the lowered speed limit and suggested it should be done right away. Commissioner Chouinard explained the importance of doing both engineering solutions and the speed limit reduction at the same time. The rest of the Commission concurred.

Motion recommending the roadway striping, raised crosswalk and flush, striped median be installed on Hunter Road, north of Lake Avenue.

Motion by: Commissioner Chouinard
Second: Commissioner Nocera
Discussion: None
Action: **Approved by unanimous voice vote.**

4. Review of “No Right Turn” restriction at Lake and Park Avenues

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided some background on this item and stated the Village Board requested the Commission consider extending the turn restriction to 6:00 AM, instead of the current 7:00 AM. This is being reviewed in conjunction with the new Starbucks at Washington Avenue and Green Bay Road.
- The Commission reviewed the counts and noted there are 46 and 51 cars turning between the 6:00 and 7:00 AM hour.
- A discussion ensued concerning the impacts of adding another hour to the restriction. Deputy Chief King was concerned of the impact this would have on pushing more traffic to Fifteenth Street. Ms. Mayerhofer concurred, indicating that staff is in the process of reviewing counts on Fifteenth Street because of cut-through complaints.
- Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the Commission should consider mirroring the same time restrictions at Wilmette and Park Avenues.
- Mr. LaPlante indicated he did not see this number increasing when the Starbucks is opened.

Approved at the April 26, 2006 Transportation Commission Meeting

- It was determined that no action would be taken now, but additional counts would be taken when the Starbucks is open. In the meantime, staff will gather count information on Fifteenth Street.

5. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2006.

Feedback

- None

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Nocera

Second: Commissioner Chouinard

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.