

**Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

---

Members Present: Clayton Weaver, Chairperson  
Rachel Nocera  
Paul Chouinard  
Cathy Albrecht  
Mark Wagstaff  
Jim Grosh

Members Absent: Eileen Miller-Girson

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

Also Present: H. Shea, 3506 Forest  
Bill Jackson, 1221 Manor Drive  
Dale Gody, 1221 Manor Drive  
Martin & Ellen Keane, 3510 Walnut  
Harvey Kloian, 3510 Walnut  
Dr. Susan London, 3424 Illinois  
Reva Truger, 3515 Greenwood  
Mrs. Kwang Lee, 1126 New Trier Court  
Dr. Naomi Vaisrub, 915 Manor Drive  
Joseph W. Retzinger, 3516 Thornwood  
Karen Bednar, 1100 Manor Drive  
Phyllis Boba, 3516 Elmwood  
Mary & Rick Wagner, 914 Manor Drive  
Max McGee, Wilmette Public Schools,  
615 Locust  
Hugh Cole, 1227 Manor Drive  
Giovanni Fulgenzi, 3515 Walnut  
Marvin Kane, 911 Manor Drive  
Prathan Sirivat, 3512 Greenwood  
John LaPlante, TY Lin, Int'l  
Louise S. & Bernard Cole, 1040 New Trier Court  
Olga Arnott, 925 Manor Drive  
Everett Jackson, 944 Manor Drive  
C. L. Geiger, 250 Locust Road  
Jae Choi Kim, 3590 Illinois  
Debbie McCurrie, 1032 New Trier Court  
Irwin Rosen, 3522 Elmwood

Morris Fine, 1101 Manor Drive  
Trustee Mari Terman, 941 Sheridan

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**1. Review of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the September 13, 2006 minutes.**

Motion by: Commissioner Chouinard

Second: Commissioner Wagstaff

Discussion: None

**Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote**

**2. Romona School Traffic Review**

- Chairman Weaver introduced this item and turned the meeting over to Officer Ron Andrews who provided his observations of the recent traffic and parking changes at Romona School. Mr. Andrews stated he was on-site at the beginning of the school year to enforce the one-way southbound restriction. He stated the current condition is safer than it used to be. People are no longer driving on the carriage walk. The assistance from the school has been a key to the success. He stated there is still some observed cut-through traffic from Regina's parking lot. There are certain times of the day when a driver exiting the Regina parking lot cannot turn onto Romona Road because cars waiting to pick up or drop off are queuing past the driveway.
- To further improve the situation, Officer Andrews suggested the following changes:
  - An additional stop sign on the east side of the Romona / Central intersection to improve visibility.
  - "No right turn" sign be posted for southbound to westbound Romona Road at Central Avenue during the same times as the one-way configuration.
  - Request that Romona School send a notice to the parents reminding them the east side of Romona Road is designated as the drop-off and pick-up zone.
  - The bushes at the corner of Wilmette Avenue and Romona Road should be trimmed.
- Superintendent McGee concurred with Mr. Andrews report and thanked the Commission and staff for their efforts. He assured the Commission he would follow up with additional parent education.

**Motion to recommend that the Engineering Department work with the other Village Departments as necessary to implement the requests outlined by Officer Andrews.**

**Motion by:** Commissioner Wagstff  
**Second:** Commissioner Nocera  
**Action:** Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Loyola Neighborhood Traffic Review

- Chairman Weaver introduced this item and stated the Commission is here to work with the neighbors and is not adversarial. He mentioned that the Commission has previously reviewed traffic issues in the neighborhood and installed speed humps in 2001 to dissuade and slow down cut-through traffic on Manor Drive. The result is a reduction in volume from 1600 to 1100 vehicles per day. He stated the Commission does not have the authority to approve or deny developments. He mentioned the items within the Commission's purview are related to recommending sidewalks, stop signs, traffic calming and parking changes. He stated that although the Starbucks has been approved by the Village Board, another traffic study is required six months after opening. The Chairman welcomed resident comments.
- Ariel Weissburg stated he represents over 200 homeowners in the area and their membership is growing. He thanked Officer Andrews and Ms. Mayerhofer for their cooperation thus far. He stated he does not want to reference anecdotal information on the traffic problems in the area, but wants to hear the Commission's solutions.
- Bill Jackson, 1221 Manor Drive, provided a slide presentation which showed various traffic and flooding concerns observed in the neighborhood.
- Mrs. Shea, 3506 Forest, asked why the school is not posted as a 20 miles per hour school zone.
- Reva Truger, 3515 Greenwood, stated parents park on the north and south side of the street illegally. How will emergency vehicles respond? She said the situation is dangerous and the neighbors have been insulted by Loyola. She wants the Commission to do something about controlling traffic in the AM and PM peak hour.
- Marvin Kane, 911 Manor Drive, said he can't get out of his driveway during certain times. He also said it is dangerous to make a left onto Lake Avenue from Manor Drive. He suggested making Manor Drive one-way south or building a road parallel to Laramie. He said cars often use his driveway to turnaround.
- Olga Arnoff, 925 Manor Drive, stated she has a son at New Trier Court who has a difficult time crossing Illinois Road because of the amount of traffic. She requested some pedestrian controls in the area to assist children crossing the street.
- Jerry Coleman, 3529 Forest Avenue, lives north of Starbucks and said the study for the development was taken when school was not in session. He said truck and parking restrictions need to be better enforced and that

there should be a traffic signal at Lake Avenue and Manor Drive. He said the meetings with Loyola have been a charade.

- Resident from 1237 Manor Drive stated the intersection of Lake and Manor is dangerous and will get worse because of the Starbucks.
- Leah Bergen, 3546 Manor Drive, is a long time resident who is not happy with student parking on private property. She gets dozens of letters each year from parents of Loyola students asking permission to rent driveways.
- Dr. Susan London, 3424 Illinois Road, stated that all of the same traffic problems were around when Loyola expanded and nothing was done at that time to protect the residents. She said Loyola is the primary instigator because they control their students. She said a .4 mile drive to Lake Avenue can take as long as 30 minutes because the crossing guard gives preference to the students exiting the parking lot, instead of the traffic on Laramie. She agreed with the parking problem and stated Loyola needs to build a parking garage.
- Jai Kim, 3590 Illinois Road, said she is new to the area. She stated the corner of Illinois and Happ Road is very dangerous. She has observed Northfield Police Department enforcing the stop sign and speed limit, but not Wilmette's Police Department. She asked about the missing sidewalk on the south side of Illinois Road and if the Starbucks approval can be reversed if it turns out it causes a traffic problem. She also asked who the Village's traffic consultants are and for information on the next steps in the process.
- Irwin Rosen, 3522 Elmwood, said he is a 48 year resident of the Village. He frequently walks down Manor Drive and has observed the problems getting worse. Kids drive on the sidewalk to avoid the speed humps. Loyola is the biggest problem, but other problems have also manifested.
- Donna Fulks, 3533 Forest Avenue, said the Commission also needs to focus on grammar school children who have to be bussed because it is too unsafe to walk to school. There is no respect shown by the Loyola students. She referenced her concerns with the traffic reports submitted by the developer for Starbucks. She stated you can't eliminate the traffic, but the best you can do is manage it.
- Rick Wagner, 914 Manor, said there needs to be more enforcement. He suggested building a new road on the abandoned Union Pacific right-of-way.
- Giovanni Fulgenzi, 3515 Walnut, stated the new development makes the already bad traffic problems worse.
- Chairman Weaver stated that it is not the Commission's purview to review new developments. The Commission is here to work with residents to come up with solutions such as traffic calming. Chairman Weaver explained the process to request traffic calming. He said the Commission can't make the traffic go away, but can look for ways to manage it. He stated the two streets of Laramie and Manor Drive share all of the traffic and if you take traffic from one street, it will go to the other street. He said

the school issues are all over the Village, but because Loyola is a bigger school, traffic issues are also bigger.

- Commissioner Grosh asked what time is best to visit the neighborhood, to which an anonymous resident stated between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.
- An anonymous resident noted the numeric traffic data that was provided in the packets and pointed out the speeding problem during school times.
- An anonymous resident stated it is the Commission's responsibility to protect the children navigating through the neighborhoods and to provide safe roadways. Chairman Weaver concurred.
- An anonymous resident asked if the Commission reviews developments seeking zoning approval. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that the developers hire a professional traffic engineer to conduct a study, which is then reviewed by the Village's traffic engineer. She continued to say the engineers hired by the Village know the Village's existing traffic concerns and provide a critical review of the developer's data. Ms. Kim asked for the names of the consultants used by the Village and Ms. Mayerhofer responded with TY Lin International and Regina Webster and Associates.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked for clarification on ownership of Illinois Road. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that Illinois Road is the County's jurisdiction from Happ to Laramie and the Village's jurisdiction from Laramie to the Edens Expressway. Any modifications proposed to the County's right-of-way would need their approval.
- An anonymous resident suggested the County wasn't brave enough to attend the meeting to which Ms. Mayerhofer stated they were invited.
- Commissioner Wagstaff asked if there is enough room for a sidewalk. Ms. Mayerhofer did not have the right-of-way information for Illinois Road, but said she thought there was enough room. The limits of the missing sidewalk are Illinois Road from Manor Drive to Happ Road on the south side.
- Chairman Weaver stated the location of the stop signs on Illinois Road seem unexpected. He suggested asking staff to look at moving the location of the stop sign to a more expected location such as at an intersection. Several anonymous residents stated moving the stop sign further east would give drivers more opportunity to speed up going north around the curve. Another anonymous resident stated this would do nothing to slow down eastbound traffic.
- Bernard Cole, 1040 New Trier Court stated traffic on Illinois Road is so fast that he cannot make a turn onto Illinois Road. He recommended adding the flashing LED lights to the stop signs at Illinois and Happ and also said more enforcement of "rolling stops" is necessary. Chairperson Weaver explained that warrants need to be met before stop signs can be installed.
- Several residents stated their concern once again with children crossing Illinois Road.

- Commissioner Wagstaff asked if it were possible to install a mid-block pedestrian signal like Lake Avenue, to which Ms. Mayerhofer stated a gap study would be required. She stated other possibilities include a marked crosswalk, signage, raised crosswalk and a pedestrian activated crosswalk notification signal. Commissioner Wagstaff indicated the key is to find one location where enough students could cross.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked if the warrants also consider traffic from New Trier West and general roadway traffic. Ms. Mayerhofer mentioned the study would measure the available gaps in traffic that allow students to cross the road. She concluded by saying the 85% speeds on Illinois Road were in the 33-35 mph range, with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. **ACTION: Staff will provide recommendations to the Commission on options for a pedestrian crossing across Illinois Road.**
- Chairman Weaver suggested there is not adequate parking at Loyola, but stated if more parking were added it would just make the problem in the neighborhood worse. Isn't the goal to find a way for fewer students to drive to Loyola? Several residents discussed the private property parking issue, indicating the going rate for parking on a private driveway is between \$400 and \$700. Most residents agreed that increasing parking at Loyola would be a positive step. Another residents stated parking drop-off and pick up should be on-site, rather than on the neighborhood streets.
- Deputy Chief Brian King provided information on the Police Department's enforcement capabilities, especially as it relates to school times. He said there are ten schools and five squads available on the street at that time. He said the goal of the Police Department is to balance school zones, community concerns and accidents. A higher priority is given to schools where a change in driver or pedestrian behavior is being implemented. He stated he would talk to Loyola about the parent drop off and pick up on the east / west streets. The Department has been working with the Engineering Department and Cook County to monitor the traffic signal at Lake and Laramie to ensure it is optimized. The Police Department has zero tolerance for parking violations and even less so for bus-related violations.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked if the 20 mph school zone could be added to Laramie Avenue, to which staff agreed it could. **ACTION: Staff to work with Public Works to sign Laramie Avenue as a 20 mph school zone.**
- Commissioner Chouinard asked how the valet parking worked at the school. Deputy Chief is going to talk to Loyola regarding valet parking.
- A discussion ensued concerning the Starbucks development and the status of the traffic study. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the Village Board required the developer to take baseline traffic counts and then retake the counts a minimum of six months after the Starbucks has opened.
- Commissioner Nocera asked what happens if the traffic studies show a negative impact from the development. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that the

Village Board's approval requires that the developer pay for any traffic improvements that are recommended by our consultant or staff as a result of the increased traffic.

- Commissioner Chouinard asked if the sidewalks on Manor Drive were carriage walks, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated they were.
- Commissioner Chouinard asked for a clarification on parking restrictions, to which staff clarified the entire area is resident permit parking.
- Commissioner Chouinard discussed the concept of "unintended consequences" and stated the Commission has to be very careful about what is being proposed so the problem does not move elsewhere or so that new problems are not created. He suggested documenting the Commission's concerns in writing so that the other Boards and Commissions are aware of the traffic problems in this neighborhood when reviewing developments. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that the Commission could do this, although the residents also communicated their traffic issues related to the 1 Happ Road development at the zoning board meeting. Commissioner Chouinard asked if a crossing guard could be placed on Illinois Road to which Ms. Mayerhofer stated this would not be in conformance with the current policy.
- Commissioner Nocera suggested adding the LED lights to the stop signs at Illinois Road and Happ Road, to which staff indicated they would look into this. IDOT owns the intersection and therefore both County and IDOT approval would be necessary. Commissioner Albrecht cautioned the audience by saying the lights work for drivers new to the area, but from experience, they become less effective for those who travel through the intersection everyday.
- An anonymous resident stated the Commission has not yet addressed the amount of traffic that cuts through the neighborhood to avoid the Edens Expressway. Chairman Weaver stated there are 5,000 cars per day on Illinois which is a considerable amount of traffic.
- An anonymous residents stated Police presence will help mitigate some of the bad driver behavior. Deputy Chief King stated the Police Department will increase enforcement of the stop sign at Illinois and Happ Road.
- Anonymous residents asked for a speed hump on Illinois Road to which Chairman Weaver state that for emergency response purposes, speed humps on collector streets are not recommended.
- Chairman Weaver asked where deliveries for 3520 Lake Avenue are anticipated to take place, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated on site. An anonymous resident asked what we will do when the delivery trucks cut-through the neighborhood to travel east. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the follow up traffic study will show if this is occurring.
- Mr. Weissburg verbalized his unhappiness with the lack of communication between the Commissions and the lack of proactive traffic management during the development approval process. Ms. Mayerhofer explained that the projects seeking zoning approval do not go before the Transportation Commission, unless specifically referred to them. She stated it is staff's

job to make sure the existing concerns of the neighborhood are incorporated into our staff report. As representatives of the neighborhood, residents have an opportunity to attend the planning, zoning and Village Board meetings to express their comments directly to the bodies voting on the developments. During the approval of the 3520 Lake development, for example, the Village Board clearly state they were concerned with traffic in the area, which is why they required baseline and follow up counts by the developer.

- Commissioner Chouinard echoed these comments by saying even tonight, a Village Trustee was in the audience observing the discussions.
- Ms. Mayerhofer suggested that staff work on several proposals for the Commission's review at a future meeting.
- Ms. Kim agreed and also suggested the Commission send a letter regarding traffic problems to the other approval bodies. She thanked Ms. Mayerhofer for attending the Zoning Board hearing on 1 Happ Road and for requesting this issue be brought to the Commission. Chair Weaver asked staff to provide the minutes of this meeting to the zoning board and planning commission. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the minutes currently go to the Village Board for approval. She reminded the Commission they cannot be sent out until they are approved by the Commission.
- A discussion ensued concerning the site development review process as it relates to Police Department concerns.
- Fire Department Lieutenant Orth stated traffic is a regional issue and not just a Commission issue. He provided a brief history of the traffic in the area and stated it is in everyone's best interest to work together to find a solution.
- Commissioner Wagstaff suggested it would be beneficial to discuss these issues with Loyola.
- Commissioner Albrecht stated she would like staff to review the items they can before the next meeting and if necessary, take longer to complete additional studies.

**Motion requesting Village staff review and provide recommendations regarding the traffic, parking and pedestrian issues and that the recommendations be brought back to the Commission for discussion at the earliest possible date.**

**Motion by:** Commission Chouinard  
**Second:** Commissioner Grosh  
**Action:** **Approved by unanimous voice vote.**

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

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2006.

**Feedback**

- None

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion by: Commissioner Grosh**

**Second: Commissioner Albrecht**

**Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer