

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

Members Present: Clayton Weaver, Chairman
Eileen Miller-Girson
Paul Chouinard
Cathy Albrecht
Mark Wagstaff
Jim Grosh

Members Absent: Rachel Nocera

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
George Carpenter, Police Chief

Also Present: Terry Brennan, 1100 Laramie
Giovanni Fulgenzi, 3515 Walnut
John LaPlante, TY Lin Int'l
Jae Choi Kim, 3590 Illinois
Helen Shea, 3506 Forest
Marjorie Baworowsky, 3506 Walnut
Patricia Berg, 1237 Manor
Louise and Bernard Cole, 1040 New Trier Court
Ariel Weissberg, 1049 Manor
Debbie McCurrie, 1032 New Trier Court

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 11, 2006 minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Wagstaff

Second: Commissioner Chouinard

Discussion: Changes noted in approved minutes.

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

2. Loyola / Manor Drive Neighborhood Traffic Study

- Chairman Weaver welcomed the audience and asked Ms. Mayerhofer to introduce this discussion. Ms. Mayerhofer referenced the memorandum in the packet and noted that this meeting is a follow up to the October meeting. She indicated that staff has addressed several of the resident concerns including building a sidewalk on the south side of Illinois Road and increased enforcement. The Public

Works Department will also be signing Laramie Avenue in front of Loyola Academy as a 20 miles per hour school zone.

- Chairman Weaver introduced Mr. LaPlante, TY Lin International, who provided a slide presentation attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.
- The group discussed the proposed changes at the curve on Illinois Road and Happ Road. Mr. LaPlante indicated that moving the stop sign to New Trier Court has two benefits. It forces people to slow down before and after the curve and also gives pedestrians a safe opportunity to cross Illinois Road. He also suggested an all way stop at the intersection of Illinois and Laramie. Ms. Mayerhofer reminded the Commission that any changes to Illinois Road need to be approved by Cook County.
- An anonymous resident asked if the stop sign on Happ Road will be removed, to which Mr. LaPlante stated he was not sure at this point.
- An anonymous resident asked if the stop sign at New Trier Court will cause a congestion problem for cars exiting Manor Drive. Mr. LaPlante indicated there may be a short delay, but not excessive.
- Commissioner Wagstaff asked if cars will see the stop sign coming around the curve. Mr. LaPlante indicated they would because cars should already be traveling slowly around the curve.
- Mr. LaPlante indicated that everything he is suggesting in this location can be easily reversed.
- An anonymous resident stated her biggest problem is with New Trier students and asked if we communicated the traffic concerns with New Trier West. Mr. LaPlante indicated he did not but thought that was a very good idea.
- A discussion ensued concerning the amount of cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. Mr. LaPlante stated there are not many options to dramatically reduce the amount of cut-through traffic. The goal is to better manage the traffic.
- In a discussion about the proposed dual left turn lanes for southbound Laramie Avenue, Mr. LaPlante stated he still needs to gather additional data. The counts show 351 cars turn left in the morning peak hour, which is a significant number. Mr. Weissberg asked how dual left turn lanes would reduce delay to which Mr. LaPlante stated delay would approximately be cut in half. All of this needs to be discussed with Cook County first.
- A discussion of the proposed Starbucks at 3520 Lake Avenue took place. Mr. LaPlante indicated that he made numerous left turns out of the Starbucks driveway and the longest he had to wait was two minutes. He timed how long it took for him to go around the corner with right turns and it took four minutes.
- The group discussed the size of the proposed curb cut for truck staging north of Lake on Manor Drive, adjacent to the Family Pantry. It was determined that the cut out will take up the width of the parkway and

be long enough to fit two delivery trucks. A resident asked if cars could use it also. Mr. LaPlante recommended signing the area as 15 minute parking and then restricting it to commercial vehicles in the future if it becomes a problem with passenger cars using the area instead of the intended trucks.

- Commissioner Albrecht asked what work remains to complete the study. Mr. LaPlante indicated additional peak hour traffic data is needed at the Laramie and Lake intersection to ensure a dual left turn (southbound to eastbound) is feasible. He will also look at the adequacy of the eastbound to northbound left turn movement.
- Mr. Ariel Weissberg, 1049 Manor Drive, stated he appreciated the work of the Commission and staff, indicating he thought the solutions were well thought out. He thanked the Commission for their efforts.
- A discussion ensued regarding jurisdiction. Although the Happ Road stop sign is in Wilmette's jurisdiction, Ms. Mayerhofer suggested any changes should be communicated to Northfield as a courtesy.
- Commissioner Chouinard stated he likes the changes to the Illinois and Happ intersection suggesting the chevron signs will be much more visible than what exists there today.
- A resident stated there is a 30 miles per hour speed limit sign for southbound traffic just north of the curve on Happ Road. She suggested moving the sign further north so cars do not think they can speed through the curve.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked who would snow plow the concrete staging area on the west side of Laramie Avenue. Mr. LaPlante suggested the school should be maintaining this area, because they are already plowing sidewalks on their property.
- Commission Wagstaff asked Mr. LaPlante to describe a "continental" crosswalk. Mr. LaPlante indicated it is a crosswalk with higher visibility because it has vertical stripes, rather than just two horizontal parallel lines.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked what the next step is, to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the Village needs to meet with the County to discuss the recommendations. The final report should be completed in the next couple of months. Ms. Mayerhofer stated the residents of the area will be notified of future meetings.
- Commissioner Chouinard stated he thought the plan looked great.
- Chief Carpenter stated he particularly liked the curb cut on Manor Drive to alleviate the congestion. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the construction of the curb cut is not in the 2007 budget and therefore needs Village Board approval. Commissioner Wagstaff asked if permeable pavement was an option for the curb cut. After some discussion, it was determined that the curb cut would not be the best application for permeable pavement.

3. “End School Zone” Signs

- Chief Carpenter introduced this item by stating one of the Trustees suggested that there should be a consistent use of end school zone signs in the Village. Chief Carpenter stated that according to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) either an end school zone sign or a regulatory speed limit sign can be used.
- Chairman Weaver asked if it makes a difference from an enforcement perspective, to which Chief Carpenter indicated it does not.
- Commission Albrecht indicated she felt more strongly about having a school zone sign at the *beginning* of the zone to alert drivers.
- Ms. Mayerhofer indicated she thought the end speed zone signs communicated useful information to the drivers, but on the other hand does not want to encourage an abundance of new signs in the Village.
- Mr. LaPlante suggested that in some cases the end of a school zone is obvious and therefore a special sign is not needed.
- Chairman Weaver stated that sometimes he is compelled to drive a few extra blocks at the reduced speed because the end of the school zone is not apparent.
- After discussion, it was determined that there are certain applications when an end school zone sign might be necessary, but other times when it is obvious and therefore not needed. The Commission suggested the policy should be that both signs are acceptable and should be evaluated on a case by case basis. This position is consistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which is the authority on traffic-related signage.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- None
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2007.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Chouinard

Second: Commissioner Miller-Girson

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer