

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Training Room at Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant
George Carpenter, Police Chief
Don George, Parking Control Officer

Also Present: Eva & Ted Barys, 1629 Lake
Emmett Goff, 1625 Elmwood
Tom Calfee, 1418 Elmwood
Gail & Bob Enkey, 1611 Lake
Vince Kennedy, 1747 Lake
Roberta Friedman, 1502 Elmwood
Sarah Titterton, 1700 Forest
Scott Goldstein, 1426 Lake
Jennifer Gervasio, 1501 Forest
Mary Pat Buckley, 1442 Lake
J. Russell Johnson, 1442 Lake
Mary Calvin, 1401 Forest
Robert Bruner, 1401 Forest
Mary Hart, 1518 Lake
Forbes Robertson, 1700 Lake
Leo Finn, 1539 Forest
Beth Bishop, 1500 Lake
Russ & Mary Olsson, 1620 Forest
Keith Dronen, 1523 Elmwood
Al Eckersberg, 1501 Walnut
Jean Yang, 1516 Elmwood
Tom Schneck, 1420 Forest

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Approval of the November 14, 2007 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh

Second by: Commissioner Albrecht

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Preliminary Traffic Study Review (Lake Avenue, 15th Street, Forest Avenue)

- Chairman Weaver welcomed the meeting attendants and introduced the discussion related to the Lake Avenue traffic study.
- Mike Magnusen of HLR, provided a slide presentation attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.
- Sarah Titterton, 1700 Forest, asked why the do not enter restriction is not recommended at 15th and Green Bay Road. Mr. Magnusen indicated it is important not to overburden Green Bay Road and stated this change could be implemented on an incremental basis. Ms. Titterton indicated she is against the do not enter restrictions on Elmwood and Forest.
- A resident asked about the timing of brick streets on 15th Street to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the brick street conversion has been approved but the timing of the project is not yet known.
- Al Eckersberg, 1501 Walnut, stated a stop sign is needed at 15th and Walnut. Ms. Mayerhofer discussed the proper use of stop signs and indicated one is not warranted per the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Mary Hart, 1518 Lake, suggested waiting until Green Bay Road is completed. She is also opposed to time of day restrictions because it limits the ability for residents to get to their houses. She is in favor of brick streets.
- Dick Friedman, 1502 Elmwood, stated he does not want the time of day restrictions either.
- Sara Titterton, 1700 Forest, requested “yield” signs at all of the intersections in the neighborhood.
- Jennifer Gervasio, 1501 Forest, said the intersection of 15th and Forest should be looked at because it is a school crossing route. She requested a raised crosswalk and / or stop signs.
- Jean Yang, 1516 Elmwood, echoed the concern about the intersection of 15th and Forest citing its offset configuration is dangerous.
- Vincent Kennedy, 1747 Lake Avenue, applauded the Commission on the accident reductions on Lake Avenue, but stated that traffic backs up to Green bay Road.
- Gail Enkey, 1611 Lake, said there is traffic on Lake all of the time and the fumes from the cars are unsafe. She stated cars on Lake

Avenue block the side streets, so getting across Lake Avenue is difficult.

- Eva Barlys, 1629 Lake Avenue, stated Lake Avenue is a disaster and asked that it be brought back to two lanes in each direction. She suggested the Village manipulated the accident data to show a reduction.
- Chairman Weaver explained the history of the Lake Avenue changes, including the fact that there were multiple public hearings over several years. The lane configuration changes were implemented at the request of the residents, because they did not like the alternative of widening the road and removing trees. Traffic has slowed on Lake Avenue, which was one of the goals of the residents.
- Mary Hart concurred by stating she would give up congestion for a slower and safer roadway.
- Beth Bishop, 1500 Lake Avenue, stated the afternoon back up begins at 3:30 p.m. Ms. Mayerhofer asked residents to keep track of the times of day the back up occurs, including how far east it occurs, and report it to the Village. This information will assist staff and the consultants determine the cause of the back ups.
- Mr. Friedman indicated he wants speed humps on 15th Street.
- Emmett Goff, 1625 Elmwood, stated Elmwood is a high speed raceway and there is too much traffic.
- Bill Bishop, 1500 Lake, indicated Elmwood and Forest are speedways. He said there are new cut-through problems on Lake Avenue because cars use the left turn lane to cut through at 17th Street to avoid going to the signal at Ridge. Chief Carpenter concurred, indicating some drivers do not use the center left turn lane appropriately, which can often be ticketable.
- Several residents disagreed with Mr. Bishop indicating they use the signal at Ridge because it facilitates a safer turning movement.
- Chairman Weaver described the traffic calming policy and indicated there are several copies available for residents to pick up.
- Mary Calvin, 1401 Forest, asked if Forest qualified for a brick street, to which Ms. Mayerhofer stated if there are bricks under the asphalt then it would.
- A discussion ensued concerning the proper use of stop and yield signs. Ms. Mayerhofer stated there is a concern that an overuse of illegal stop signs could cause them to become ineffective and potentially create unsafe conditions.
- Ms. Calvin indicated something needs to be done at the intersection of 15th and Forest.
- The group agreed that many of the traffic problems in the Village stem from the changes on Green Bay Road. Ms. Mayerhofer provided an update on the Green Bay Road Traffic Signal Improvement Project.

- Commissioner Chouinard indicated he could not support reversing Lake Avenue back to the way it was because of the overwhelming accident reduction that has occurred. He is in favor of converting streets to brick and changing the profile of the berms. He is also in favor of the bump out at 15th Street, but not the do not enter restriction for westbound Elmwood and Forest.
- Chairman Weaver concurred with the bump out at Green Bay and 15th Street, stating similar changes have been effective in slowing traffic.
- A discussion occurred regarding cars that block intersections. Chief Carpenter stated this is a ticketable offense if there is a sign indicating "Do Not Block Intersection".
- The group discussed the impact of parking on speeding and safety. Mr. Magnusen indicated parked cars on the street tend to slow traffic. Parking on 15th Street near the Forest intersections should be evaluated because it may be causing a site distance problem.
- Tom Schneke, 1420 Forest, stated there have been several close calls at Forest and 15th Street.
- A resident asked who has jurisdiction of Lake Avenue to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the Village owns Lake from Green Bay Road to Ridge Road.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked who monitors the signals on Lake Avenue to which Mr. Magnusen indicated the Cook County Highway Department monitors the signals.
- Chair Weaver stated that Metra added five trains within the last six months, which may have had an impact on traffic.
- Ms. Mayerhofer pointed out that during non-peak times, the interconnect on Lake Avenue has reduced intersection idle time, which is an air quality improvement.
- Tom Schneke asked if the east side of Green Bay Road could be opened up for commuter parking.
- The discussion concluded with Chair Weaver thanking everyone for their comments. Staff and HLR will incorporate these comments into a final plan to be presented in February. Residents will be notified of the upcoming meeting.

3. Discussion of Changing Parking Regulations

- The Committee reviewed and approved, with minor changes, the proposed code changes that will give the Transportation Commission authority to reverse or amend residential and overnight parking restrictions. The draft code changes will be presented to the Village Board at their January 8, 2007 meeting.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- **None**

Approved at the February 13, 2008 Transportation Commission Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2008.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.