

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 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

Also Present: Tim and Nancy Perry, 1433 Forest Avenue
Kim Rutkin, 1527 Walnut Avenue
Suzanne Day, 1502 Walnut Avenue
Forbes Robertson, 1700 Lake Avenue
Tom Schneck, 1420 Forest Avenue
Kathy Sheridan, 1436 Forest Avenue
Bill Bishop, 1500 Lake Avenue
Jim Thede, 920 15th Street

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

1. Review of Minutes

Approval of the December 12, 2007 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Grosh

Second by: Commissioner Mackenzie

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. 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 summary of the changes that have taken place since the December meeting. He indicated he has been working with the Cook County Highway Department to modify the interconnection times on Lake Avenue. In addition, a loop detector problem was found and fixed at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Ridge Road. Observations have shown that these changes have improved peak time traffic flow.

- Regarding the traffic calming plan for the neighborhood north of 15th Street, Mr. Magnusen indicated he modified the plan based on the feedback received from the last meeting. In particular, he added a no parking zone on 15th Street at its intersection with Forest Avenue, a speed hump on 15th Street north of Forest Avenue, stop signs along 15th Street at the cross streets and an alternating block stop sign plan for the neighborhood.
- Chair Weaver asked if there has been enough time to evaluate whether or not the traffic coordination changes and loop detector change have worked. Mr. Magnusen indicated his observation has been that traffic flow has improved.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked if there were any changes to the signal at Green Bay Road and Lake Avenue to which Mr. Magnusen indicated there was not because it is part of a separate interconnection system.
- Commissioner Chouinard noted a letter from a resident who lives off the east / west alley north of Lake Avenue. He suggested that if the do not enter is implemented on Forest and Elmwood Avenue, similar signage may be necessary at the alley.
- A discussion regarding what material a speed hump would be constructed of on a brick street took place. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the hump would likely be built of asphalt so it could be adequately striped. Striping on brick streets is extremely difficult to achieve.
- Commissioner Mackenzie indicated there are short term and long term solutions. He stated the signage should be the easiest and most cost effective to implement.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of an all-way stop at the staggered intersection of 15th and Forest. Mr. Magnusen indicated this intersection would not likely meet the MUTCD warrants.
- The group discussed the neighborhood plan for alternating two way stop signs. Mr. Magnusen indicated the stop signs are not intended to slow traffic, but are there to clarify the right-of-way. He noted this neighborhood has narrow streets with on-street parking, mature landscaping and short setbacks which reduces sight vision, which is important in a high pedestrian area. The Police Chief and Commission did not support the plan to install two-way stop signs.
- Commissioner Albrecht indicated that she believes speed humps should be used as a last resort.
- Resident Comments:
 - Tom Schneck, 1420 Forest Avenue, stated he has 12 years worth of studies that show high speeds and volumes back in 1998. He indicated three children have been hit by cars. Something needs to be done before more children get hurt.
 - Kathy Sheridan, 1436 Forest, stated speeding is the problem. She is not in favor of the do not enter restriction from Green Bay Road.

- Forbes Robertson, 1700 Lake, stated speeding also occurs on Elmwood and Walnut. He said the back up problem on Lake Avenue has improved. Stop signs are favorable at 15th and Forest, but are concerned there will be additional cut-through on 16th, 17th and 18th.
- Bill Bishop, 1500 Lake, stated an uninhibited 15th from Lake Avenue to Green Bay Road will lead to speeding. Saturdays and Sundays are also very busy for cut-through traffic. He referenced Sterling Lane as having longer restriction hours.
- Jim Thede, 920 15th Street, said parking is a problem for sight distance. He indicated the area could not have too many stop signs.
- Commissioner Wagstaff asked about parking restrictions to which it was stated there is parking on the west side only, leading to northbound speeding.
- Susan Day 1502 Walnut, indicated parking slows cars down but creates poor sight lines. She concurred that speeding is the problem.
- Kim Rutkin 1527 Walnut, said visibility is a significant concern on 16th Street north of Lake Avenue. **ACTION:** Staff will review the width of the roadway and determine if no parking should be implemented.
- Tom Schnecke recommended more use of speed humps like Evanston and a 20 mile per hour speed limit.
- The Commission discussed each of the proposed improvements. Staff indicated that the cut-through volume on both 15th Street and Forest Avenue would warrant speed humps. Commissioner Chouinard asked about speed humps in the alley. Staff indicated traffic data should be collected before this is recommended. There is not currently a policy on where and why traffic calming in alleys is appropriate. Ms. Mayerhofer indicated that her discussion with the Fire Department was that they would prefer signage (do not enter) to physical barriers such as speed humps on Forest Avenue because of their access on Forest east of Green Bay Road. She stated response time was their concern and if speed humps were proposed, she would like to discuss this further with the Fire Chief.
- Commissioner Mackenzie stated there were clearly a couple of improvements that were supported by the group that could be voted on and removed from the discussion.

Motion to install the bump out at 15th Street and Green Bay Road and implement no parking on 15th Street near Forest Avenue as recommended by HLR.

Motion by: Commissioner Mackenzie

Second: Commissioner Wagstaff

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

- The Commission had additional discussion about the stop signs at Forest and 15th and the do not enter proposal at Forest and Elmwood. There was concurrence that if the residents wanted to submit a petition

for the do not enter signs they could submit one at any time. At this time, the Commission chose to postpone action on the installation of peak hour do not enter signs.

Motion to install stop sign control on Forest Avenue at 15th Street.

Vote Aye: Commissioners Albrecht, Weaver, Chouinard, Miller-Girson

Vote No: Commissioners Grosh, Wagstaff and Mackenzie

Action: Motion passed with a four to three vote

- Lastly, the Commission directed staff to prepare a speed hump plan for the 1400 blocks of Forest and Elmwood Avenues and 15th Street, north of Lake for a future meeting.

3. Discussion of Upcoming Parking Petitions

- Ms. Mayerhofer indicated the Village Board approved code changes that will give the Transportation Commission authority to reverse or amend residential and overnight parking restrictions.
- The Committee discussed the changes to the Village Code that were recently approved and how to approach petitions that are awaiting review. It was determined that petitions in which existing parking regulations are reversed or changed at the initiation of the Transportation Commission will likely require a minimum of two meetings.

4. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2008.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.