

Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting held on Wednesday, April 9, 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
Keith MacKenzie
Mark Wagstaff
Jim Grosh
Eileen Miller-Girson

Members Absent: Paul Chouinard

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering
Linda Reilley, Engineering Assistant

Also Present: Michael and Jennifer Gervasio, 1501 Forest Avenue
Ruth Jasper, 928 15th Street
Roberta Friedman, 1502 Elmwood Avenue
Richard Friedman, 1502 Elmwood Avenue
Tom Schneck, 1420 Forest Avenue
Ed Fay, 1425 Forest Avenue
Carol Finnegan, 1417 Forest Avenue
Patrick Fitzgerald, 1417 Forest Avenue
John Sheridan, 1436 Forest Avenue
Jorge Esteve, 1428 Forest Avenue
Dave Flick, 1421 Forest Avenue
Bill Bishop, 1500 Lake Avenue

Chairman Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Review of Minutes

Approval of the March 12, 2008 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Commissioner Wagstaff

Second by: Commissioner Mackenzie

Discussion: None

Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Review of the January 16, 2008 Bike Task Force Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Reilley provided information about the Bike to Soccer and Bike to Library events that the BTF is sponsoring. She also mentioned the great success the Task Force had in collecting private donations for the school bicycle training program.

3. Speed Hump Plan for 15th Street from Lake Avenue to Green Bay Road and the 1400 blocks of Forest and Elmwood Avenues

- Mr. Magnusen, HLR, began the discussion by providing a brief history of the traffic calming elements discussed to date for the neighborhood bordered by Green Bay Road, Ridge Road and Lake Avenue. The Commission previously approved the “bump out” on the north end of 15th Street. He presented the proposed speed hump plan which consists of three humps on 15th Street, two on Forest Avenue and one on Elmwood Avenue. Mr. Magnusen reminded the group that speed humps are effective for reducing mid block speeds and perhaps volume, but they can also be noisy and annoying to those who have to traverse them everyday.
- Commissioner Mackenzie asked what the schedule for re-bricking 15th Street was to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated tentatively next year, depending on the available road program funds.
- Commissioner Albrecht asked for clarification on the speed and volumes for Forest, Elmwood and 15th Street. Staff indicated both streets meet the requirements in the traffic calming policy for eligibility which is 85% speeds over 7 mph over the posted speed limit and / or volumes exceeding 1200 vehicles per day.
- Commissioner Wagstaff asked for the consultant’s opinion to which Mr. Magnusen thought the speed humps would have a great impact on speed than the “bump out.”
- Commissioner Albrecht was concerned that implementing traffic calming on 15th Street would result in more traffic on 16th Street.
- The Commission had a brief discussion on how the Green Bay Road project would impact traffic in this neighborhood.
- Tom Schnecke, 1420 Forest Avenue, supports the traffic calming plan and indicated speeds are much higher than shown by recent data. He noted there have been several pedestrian accidents in the area.
- Jorge Esteve , 1428 Forest, stated there has to be better circulation of traffic for this corridor. He wanted to know what the forecasting was for this area in regard to growth and traffic volume. Ms. Mayerhofer stated that Wilmette was built out and growth is minimal.
- Mike Gervasio, 1501 Forest, asked for an explanation on the difference between a speed hump and speed bump.
- The Commission discussed the Village’s standard design on a speed hump which is 12-feet long and 3 ½ inches high and parabolic shape. This design is for 15 mph speeds.
- Commissioner Mackenzie asked about the impact of drainage berms on speed to which staff indicated very little impact, if any.
- Ed Fay, 1425 Forest Avenue, noted appreciation for all of the time the Commission has spent on this issue and indicated he thought the sensors that collect traffic data do not work.

- As it relates to what signage and striping is used for speed humps, Ms. Mayerhofer suggested residents drive other areas with speed humps (Locust, Manor, Thornwood and Kenilworth) to get a first hand look.
- Jennifer Gervasio, 1501 Forest, said she never notices berms slowing her down. She suggested installing a raised crosswalk at 15th and Forest Avenue.
- Chairman Weaver summarized the list of traffic calming options and opened the floor for Commissioner comments.
- Commissioner Mackenzie asked about the availability of funding to which Ms. Mayerhofer indicated there is \$20,000 available in the 2008 budget for traffic calming. The 2009 budget can reflect anything the Commission requests.
- Commissioner Albrecht expressed concerns with the speed humps and thinks they should be used as a last resort. She believes many residents on other streets in Wilmette will want speed humps also.
- Commissioner Miller-Girson stated that if other streets meet the requirements in the traffic calming policy, then they would also be eligible for speed humps.
- Bill Bishop, 1500 Forest Avenue asked for enforcement of the new stop signs.
- Commissioner Albrecht stated she prefers a phased approach to installing traffic calming. Commissioner Wagstaff agreed, but felt an overall plan approval was also important.
- Motion to approve the traffic calming plan as presented, with the inclusion of a raised crosswalk, to serve as a guidance document for traffic calming in the neighborhood.
Motion by: Commissioner Wagstaff
Second: Commissioner Miller Girson
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. 2008 Traffic Calming Budget, Project Prioritization

- Commissioner Mackenzie began the discussion by suggesting installing speed humps on 15th Street this year and then removing them with the construction next year would not be judicious use of Village funds.
- The Commission discussed whether or not the traffic calming budget for 2008 should be spent on the bump out at the north end of 15th Street or the three speed humps on Forest and Elmwood Avenues. There was consensus that the bump out would not have as strong an impact on speed and cut-through traffic as the three speed humps.
Motion to survey the residents of the 1400 blocks of Forest Avenue and Elmwood Avenue regarding their acceptance of the proposed speed hump plan with planned implementation for 2008.
Motion by: Commissioner Mackenzie

Approved at the May 14, 2008 Transportation Commission Meeting

Second: Commissioner Miller Girson
Action: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. Old Business / Pending Matters / Next Meeting

- Ms. Mayerhofer provided an update on the temporary parking changes on 4th Street and Isabella Street that will take place once the southbound Sheridan Road detour becomes effective.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2008.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Brigitte Mayerhofer.