



Engineering
Department

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MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

7:00 P.M.

SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Chairperson Cathy Albrecht
Commissioner Pat Lilly
Commissioner Steve Santacruz
Commissioner Brendan McCarthy
Commissioner Reinhardt Schneider
Commissioner Craig LeMoyne

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Dan Manis, Civil Engineer II
Brian King, Chief of Police
Ron Andrews, Police Traffic Coordinator
Michael Braiman, Assistant Village Manager

Guests Present: Peter Lemmon, Traffic Analysis & Design, Inc.
Kathy McCabe, 1430 Maple
Christy Coughlin, 917 Greenleaf
Sharon Panzica, 1518 Maple
Ann Hollander, 1433 Maple

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Albrecht called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2013.

Chairperson Albrecht directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of January 30, 2013. Commissioner Santacruz moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lilly. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. **The motion passed.**

III. DISCUSSION OF STOP HERE FOR PEDESTRIAN SIGNS AT UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

Dan Manis, Village Civil Engineer, reviewed the background of proposed safety enhancements at unprotected crosswalks. At the July 11, 2012 Transportation Commission meeting, staff was directed to move forward with a pilot project consisting of the installation of curb extension (bump-outs), roadside "Stop Here for Pedestrian" signs, and pavement markings at the intersections of Wilmette Avenue at Prairie Avenue and at 15th Street. Additionally, the Traffic Analysis and Design, Inc. (TADI) report made recommendations for enhancements at uncontrolled intersections along the Sheridan Road corridor. At the November 14, 2012 Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed the November 2012 Stop Compliance Counts report prepared by TADI and directed staff to conduct a follow-up study in the spring of 2013 to determine if the effectiveness of the safety enhancements would benefit from increased exposure to the public over time. Mr. Manis said the most recent reports were completed in May and June of 2013.

Mr. Lemmon, TADI, reviewed the report presented to the Transportation Commission, noting the most recent report for the Wilmette Avenue at 15th Street intersection indicates a compliance rate of 25% from the May 2013 data. The report also states that even though the intersection did see a measured increase in stop compliance, improvements can still be made by increasing enforcement and providing for Village-wide education.

Kathy McCabe, 1430 Maple Avenue, asked what days and times of the week the data was collected.

Mr. Lemmon said data collection was done during the week, usually Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

Ms. McCabe said she has observed that cars do not stop for the crosswalk regardless of the signage.

Mr. Lemmon said in the attached June 2013 TADI report, compliance counts for Sheridan Road at Chestnut, Washington, and Michigan Avenues were taken over

two separate weekend days. Each of these locations includes a brick accented crosswalk at an uncontrolled intersection that gets heavy pedestrian use. The Washington and Michigan crossing does not include any supplemental "Stop for Pedestrian" signage while the Chestnut crossing includes the in-street "Stop for Pedestrians within Crosswalk" sign which was installed in the summer of 2012. Compliance at Washington and Michigan is presented at 6% and 13% respectively, while compliance at Chestnut was 46%. The disparity in compliance clearly demonstrates the influence of the in-street "Stop for Pedestrians within Crosswalk" sign.

Police Chief Brian King said he appreciates the consistency of doing the studies in the same way each time as he believes that is important. His only objection to the reports is the language contained in the reports regarding compliance and the State laws. He said the driver anticipation of pedestrians ready to cross the street is the key to having motorists stop for crosswalks.

Commissioner Santacruz asked if in-street signs are generally more effective.

Mr. Lemmon said the signs are dictated by federal design and may create some confusion in the beginning when they are installed but the confusion lessens over time and the benefit is great.

Ms. McCabe said there seems to be a general unawareness of how the law is supposed to be enforced regarding signage in crosswalks.

Mr. Lemmon said there is no definition in the state laws regarding the timing of the gap for stopping when someone enters a crosswalk as there are many variables involved regarding design and speed.

Ms. Mayerhofer said pedestrian signals will be installed next week at Wilmette Avenue and Prairie which will have an amber flash to warn motorists to slow down and stop at the crosswalk. Ms. Mayerhofer noted that the Village received a grant for the signal.

Commissioner Albrecht said the Commission has to look at the issue of crosswalks Village wide. Wilmette Avenue and Sheridan Road are busy streets and pedestrians have to be careful when crossing the streets. The studies seem to show that when there are a lot of people crossing the street all the time, cars get used to stopping and yielding to pedestrians, it is a cultural change.

Chief King said everyone is committed to pedestrians crossing safely everywhere in the Village. The Police Department is currently educating and enforcing pedestrian crosswalk safety.

Sharon Panzica, 1518 Maple Avenue, said she likes the new signs but it did take her some time while driving to understand how the signs work.

Christy Coughlin, 917 Greenleaf, said she thinks the signs are great and she sees people stopping for pedestrians that are crossing.

Ms. Mayerhofer reviewed the Village of Wilmette's Policies and Procedures for Guidelines for the Placement of Pedestrian Crossing Signs, noting staffs' suggestions of change in the document.

Commissioner Albrecht said the Commission will continue to look at the issue going forward. At this time the Commission is studying Sheridan Road and the two intersections on Wilmette Avenue which are all high volume areas. The Village Engineer and the Police Department will continue to follow compliance of the crosswalks and educating the public. Once the new flashing beacon is installed on Wilmette Avenue, the Police Department will monitor the area.

Chief King said staff will continue the education of pedestrian safety and compliance through the Village's cable television station and the school resource officer.

Commissioner Albrecht noted that Commissioner LeMoyne arrived.

IV. APPROVAL OF CROSSING GUARD LOCATIONS FOR THE 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Officer Ron Andrews said every May the Police Department completes a summary report on the school crossing year noting any problems and/or recommended changes. He said changes that have been implemented through the years have been working very well. He did not receive any calls regarding crossing guard locations last year and suggested keeping the same locations and time schedules.

Commissioner Schneider moved to maintain the crossing guard numbers and locations as recommended by the Police Department, seconded by Commissioner Lilly. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The motion carried.

V. TRAFFIC CALMING OPPORTUNITIES

Ms. Mayerhofer said since the economic downturn in 2008, the Traffic Calming Program has not been funded in the Village budget. The Engineering Department continues to complete traffic studies to evaluate the need for traffic calming throughout the Village. She reviewed the report presented to the Commission noting that the even without recent funding for a separate traffic

calming improvement program, the Village has been able to construct several traffic calming improvements in conjunction with road rehabilitation projects.

Ann Hollinger, 1433 Maple Avenue, asked if it was possible to slow the traffic on Maple Avenue with yield signage.

Ms. Mayerhofer said yield signs are not posted unless it has been determined that they are necessary.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m. Commissioner McCarthy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schneider. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.** No further discussion occurred on the motion.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Brigitte Mayerhofer and Dan Manis.