



1200 Wilmette Avenue  
WILMETTE, IL 60091

Engineering  
Department

(847) 853-7660  
Fax (847) 853-7701

**MEETING MINUTES**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF VILLAGE HALL**

Members Present:

Chairman Pat Lilly  
Commissioner Brendan McCarthy  
Commissioner Craig LeMoyne  
Commissioner Susan Barton  
Commissioner Libby Braband  
Commissioner Michael Taylor

Members Absent:

None.

Staff Present:

Brigitte Berger, P.E., Director of Engineering Services  
Michael Miller, Civil Engineer  
Kyle Perkins, Deputy Police Chief

Guests Present:

Sagar Sonar, Stanley Consultants  
Paul Schneider, Stanley Consultants

**I. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chairman Lilly called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2014.**

Chairman Lilly directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of November 20, 2014. Commissioner McCarthy moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braband. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**The motion passed.**

### **III. PROPOSED BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON GLENVIEW ROAD/WILMETTE AVENUE FROM THE WEST VILLAGE LIMITS TO GREEN BAY ROAD.**

Chairman Lily noted that the item tonight is only discussion of a concept plan as there is no funding for the project at this time. Chairman Lilly said many comments from residents have been received and provided to the Commission members.

Brigitte Berger, Director of Engineering, said tonight's discussion is purely conceptual. The discussion and public hearing for bicycle improvements is for a grant opportunity that the Engineering Department is considering. Staff recognizes that there is a demand for bike facilities in Wilmette but they also know there are repercussions with installing bike improvements and wanted feedback from the community before proceeding with the grant process.

Ms. Berger said the presentation tonight is looking at the entire corridor from the western Village corridor where we connect to Glenview all the way to Green Bay Road.

Ms. Berger introduced Mr. Sonar and Mr. Schneider from Stanley Consultants who will present a PowerPoint of the proposed bicycle route.

Mr. Sonar said if federal funds were to be received for the project, additional studies would have to be completed, a report submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation for approval, preparation of contract plans to send out to bid and then construction for the project. He said that would take approximately four to five years.

Mr. Sonar reviewed the corridor characteristics of the proposed bike route noting the streets are all minor arterial routes. He said they look at connectivity with other bike trails in the area and that is why they have chosen Wilmette Avenue/Glenview Road. He said the two parameters they are working with are meeting Federal requirements and not widening any roadways.

Mr. Schneider reviewed the types of bicycle facilities detailed in the presented report. He also explained how each bike plan would work in the two corridor segments.

Commissioner Taylor asked why Wilmette Avenue was classified as minor arterial volume on the streets.

Mr. Sonar said the streets are classified based on how streets connect to other facilities, how many lanes there are and traffic.

Commissioner LeMoynes asked if the Village had ever studied the amount of cycling volume on Wilmette Avenue and where did the idea of the proposed bike route come from.

Ms. Berger said the Village has not studied the amount of cycling volume. The idea of the proposed route came from a combination of Village staff and bicycle advocacy groups.

Commissioner Braband asked when Lake Avenue was modified in terms of operations.

Ms. Berger said Lake Avenue was modified in 2006-2007.

Chairman Lilly opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Peter Taft, 1708 Wilmette Avenue, said Crawford to Ridge is characterized as a two lane road but people drive it as a four lane road. Wilmette Avenue between Ridge and Green Bay Roads used to be a four lane road before it was reconfigured. He does not see a lot of bike traffic on Wilmette Avenue and believes Wilmette Avenue is a dangerous road with the amount of traffic it has.

Mike Lieber, 2035 Hollywood Court, said he supports the bicycle route as he believes it will connect Wilmette to other bicycle routes in the area.

Ryrie Pellaton, 1115 Lake Avenue, said he is an active biker and believes the bicycle route is needed for the Village. He also believes the kids should have a safe bicycle route to be able to ride to school.

Guillermo Cannon, 1416 Wilmette Avenue, said he believes it is important to address the parking problem on Wilmette Avenue near Prairie. He said residents are not able to park in front of their homes on Wilmette Avenue as many people who work at the post office, schools or ride the Metra, park all day on Wilmette Avenue. He would suggest a safer, alternative bicycle route somewhere rather than busy Wilmette Avenue.

Andrea Koran, 1463 Wilmette Avenue, said the proposed bicycle plan would cause the residents on Wilmette Avenue to lose all the parking between Ridge and Green Bay Roads. She would prefer an alternative bicycle route other than on Wilmette Avenue.

Elliott Torres, 1463 Wilmette Avenue, asked how well shared bike lanes do in regards to safety. He believes dedicated bike lanes would be safer for all bikers.

Mark Klocksinn, 1725 Wilmette Avenue, said he and his wife enjoy biking but since he lives on Wilmette Avenue, he will lose parking in front of his house. He would like the street to remain the way it currently is.

Jim McCabe, 1466 Wilmette Avenue, said safety is the main issue for him with the proposed bike route plan. He said parking is already an issue in the area and removing parking on Wilmette Avenue would cause residents in the area more problems trying to find parking.

Kerry Hall, 1337 Greenwood, said he has been biking in the area for many years and it is very difficult to bike east to west in Wilmette. He believes the proposed bicycle route is a good plan.

Lisa Schneider Fabes, 108 Woodbine, said she believes riding in Wilmette is too dangerous for her children. She encouraged the Commission to find an east/west bicycle route in Wilmette.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if any other bicycle routes were considered besides the route proposed this evening.

Ms. Berger said the proposed bicycle route was triggered by the possibility of a grant. She said Glenview and Wilmette were the only likely road options for a bicycle route because of the connectivity to other bicycle routes and that is what is identified for grants.

Commissioner Braband asked what drove the consultants to eliminate parking on the south side of Wilmette Avenue rather than the north side.

Mr. Schneider said they chose to eliminate parking on the south side of Wilmette Avenue as there is a library, park and school on the north side of the street. He said it is only a recommendation as safety studies would have to be done as part of Phase I of the project before they go any further.

Margaret Smith, 1322 Wilmette Avenue, said she was on a bicycle committee many years ago that identified a children's bicycle route through side streets. She believes when parking was added on Wilmette Avenue it calmed the streets. She said parking is really an issue on Wilmette Avenue and if a resident is not able to park in front of their home, she believes it will devalue their property.

David Rankin, 1731 Wilmette Avenue, said he is for bicycle safety, a safe Wilmette Avenue and is against both the current process and the recommendation from the consultants.

Ken Obel, 221 Linden Avenue, said he understands all the viewpoints expressed and believes it is important that federal funding is available to pursue bicycle routes in the Village. He also understands the loss of parking would be an inconvenience for residents on Wilmette Avenue but the benefit for the whole community should be considered for a bicycle route from east to west Wilmette.

Karen Glennemeier, 719 Laurel Avenue, asked if it was possible to just use three of the four segments of the proposed bicycle route or would that make it less likely to receive the grant.

Ms. Berger said all four segments of the proposed bicycle route makes it a more attractive candidate for a federal grant but they could modify the proposal. She

strongly supports an east/west bicycle route, as bicycles are the way of the future but she also hears the legitimate concerns of the residents on Wilmette Avenue.

Cynthia Gaskill, 1325 Wilmette Avenue, said the past few years since the reconfiguration of Wilmette Avenue have been better. She said some federal grants are worth the money and some do not make things better. It would be an inconvenience and safety concern for residents to lose parking in front of their homes especially for seniors and people with disabilities.

Erich Heger, 421 Illinois Road, said he lives at the corner of Illinois and Wilmette between Ridge Road and Hunter Road which is four lane traffic. He will not let his children ride bikes on Wilmette Avenue as he believes it is too dangerous. He would like to see a bike lane on Wilmette Avenue but he realizes it may not be a good solution for those residents in segment four of the proposed route.

Rich Cozzola, 1506 Wilmette Avenue, said he prefers the children's route from east to west which may be slower but is a safer, nicer bike ride. He is concerned about the loss of parking and safety from the proposed bicycle route. Residents on Wilmette Avenue went through this process back in 2000 and came up with a compromised safe solution.

Will Hellan, 1606 Elmwood, said he is an avid bicyclist and said there is a serious lack of east/west routes on the north shore. He said bike lanes in other parts of the country work very well and are safe. He supports the proposed bike route and he hopes there is a way to work out the difficulties with it.

Natasha Miller, 1418 Wilmette Avenue, said she is concerned with parking being removed from Wilmette Avenue as she believes it will affect property values. She knows there are people biking already on Wilmette Avenue so she is against the proposed bicycle route project.

David Wisel, 443 Sandy Lane, said his main concern is the effect the proposed route would have on traffic in the area. There is a lot of traffic and it is already difficult to pull out onto Wilmette Avenue from side streets.

Tim Clemens, 1811 Wilmette Avenue, said he believes traffic has increased on Wilmette Avenue due to the lane configurations on Lake Avenue. He is concerned his property values will be affected if parking is removed for a bike lane. He believes there are plenty of options for a different bike route.

Paul Jung, 1445 Wilmette Avenue, said he hopes the Commission reviews the many discussions that took place before Wilmette Avenue was reconfigured to hear what the concerns were from residents on Wilmette Avenue. He said there is already a preferred bike route on side streets from east to west that is being used.

David Rankin said the bump out at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Prairie Avenue intersections have increased compliance at the cross walks from 8% to 38%. He does not want to see those eliminated for the proposed bike route.

Joan Abrams, 2016 Wilmette Avenue, said she is right at the corner of Wilmette Avenue and Glenview Road and traffic is very busy when she tries to pull out of her driveway. She would like to have a safe route for bicycles as there are many schools and children walking in the area. She wondered if there could be a safe bike route between Ridge Road and the west Village property lines.

Dave Taylor, 234 17<sup>th</sup> Street, asked what percentage of the people of Wilmette are going to ride their bikes on Wilmette Avenue and is it high enough to make the large change to Wilmette Avenue.

Deneen Kakovan, 1609 Wilmette Avenue, said she does not mind bicycles but her concern is losing the parking in front of her house as she does not have an alley on her street.

A resident asked if it is illegal to ride bicycles on the sidewalks.

Deputy Chief Perkins said it is not illegal to ride bicycles on most sidewalks unless it is otherwise posted that no bikes are allowed on sidewalk.

Ms. Berger said professional bicyclists will tell you it is not recommended to mix bicycles and pedestrians on a two way sidewalk as it can get very congested.

Ruth Schmit, 1319 Wilmette Avenue, said her son uses the childrens' bicycle route to school many times with friends. She said losing the parking in front of her house would be a great hardship to her family.

Joel Feinstein, 407 Wilshire Dr. W., said he believes it is imperative that Wilmette has an east/west bike trail. He believes if the bicycle plan hooks up to the North Branch Trail, the Village would be more likely to receive funding.

Chairman Lilly thanked the residents for their comments this evening.

Ms. Berger said it is her observation from the comments this evening, that Section 4 be tabled and removed from the grant application. She said Sections 1 and 2 seemed to be neutral or favorable and Section 3 has some possibilities to add bike lanes and calm traffic.

Commissioner LeMoyné said he agrees with Ms. Berger's observations.

Chairman Lilly said he also agrees with Ms. Berger's observations even though he would like to see a bicycle route in Wilmette.

John Pope, 2101 Wilmette Avenue, said he always thought Wilmette Avenue between Ridge Road and Illinois Road was a four lane road. He believes a better solution would be to add more parking there to slow down traffic.

Ms. Berger said she will continue to publish information regarding the ongoing grant process.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:10 p.m. Commissioner LeMoyne moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor. 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 Barbara Hirsch.