



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes

Traffic Commission

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

*Chairman Martin DeFatte, Alderman Ronald D. Hart
Atty. Scott Letteney, Commissioner Richard Jones
Asst. Chief Steven Hurley, Jarvis Finley, Charles French*

Monday, June 18, 2007

4:00 PM

Room 301, City Hall

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.

Scott Letteney introduced Nicole Loop from the City Attorney's Office. He indicated Nicole is a new hire and would be the member assigned to the Traffic Commission representing the City Attorney's Office.

PRESENT: 5 - Ronald D. Hart, Steven Hurley, Martin DeFatte, Richard Jones and Scott Letteney

EXCUSED: 2 - Jarvis Finley and Charles French

Also Present: John Rooney; Nicole Loop, City Attorney's Office; Micah Waters; Mercedes Dzindzeleta; Bill and Nancy Scharding; Kate Remington; Devin Sutherland; Sandy Schmitz; Thom Bowen

Approval of Minutes for the May 21, 2007 Meeting

Motion made by Hart, seconded by Letteney to approve the minutes as printed.

to Approve the Minutes

New Business

1. [07-0708](#) **Subject:** Communication from John Rooney, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering submitting the recommendations from HNTB Corporation for the traffic control on the Sixth Street renovation.

Recommendation: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney described the Sixth Street reconstruction project from Monument Square to Grand Avenue. He indicated that HNTB has been hired by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the City of Racine to do the design work for the Sixth Street project. He indicated that in the scope of their work to do the design, it was requested that HNTB take a look at all the traffic signal operations along the corridor and study them and see if warrants are met for the traffic signals to remain. John Rooney said if warrants weren't met for traffic signal installation, then the consultant would recommend another form of traffic control for the project. He noted signals at College and Park were analyzed to see if warrants were still required and also indicated warrants were looked at for Villa Street where no traffic signal currently exists. John Rooney turned the meeting over to Chris Devery (HNTB) to describe the project.

Chris Devery (HNTB) described the analysis done for the traffic signal warrants. He referred to the schedule of the project and where the traffic analysis fell into that schedule. He noted that traffic analysis had to be complete to incorporate the final traffic control items into the final design. He indicated a safety analysis was done and rates were looked at for crashes and incidents involving pedestrians. They also measured traffic volumes and turning movements on the corridor. Chris Devery noted traffic signal warrants were looked at for the existing traffic signals and for a possible signal at Villa Street. He noted signal warrants were not met currently, nor would be met in the future, for both the signalized and unsignalized intersections. Chris described some options for studying the corridor by simulating all-way or two-way stop control on the side streets. He noted that the study period would be up to three weeks for three different scenarios. He noted that after approximately two full weeks the measures of effectiveness would be measured in the third week after drivers got used to the new traffic configuration.

Scott Letteney asked if three weeks is long enough to study a certain condition and if traffic crashes could be predicted with a change in traffic control.

John Rooney commented the flashing yellow on Sixth Street and flashing red on the side streets would very much act as a two-way stop. He noted that several other signals in the City of Racine go to that flash mode until a certain time of day, and motorists are quite aware of who has right-of-way.

Chris Devery indicated there is no good analysis tools to predict crashes in the future.

Bill Scharding commented on why Sixth Street and Wisconsin Avenue were not included in the traffic signal study.

Chris indicated there is a heavy movement in the southbound direction on Wisconsin Avenue and that when the movements on cross streets equal that, the movements on the main street signals generally are very effective.

John Rooney further noted Wisconsin Avenue, Main Street, Sixth Street, and Seventh Street are part of a four-corner location where traffic signalization and coordination is required.

Thom Bowen commented, while he understood stop signs should not be installed to control speed, he did believe it would help with pedestrian safety. He thought the infrastructure for traffic signals should be built during this project in case signals were needed in the future.

Chris Devery commented that if signals were not warranted, the DOT would, most likely, not pay for any traffic signal infrastructure on this project and it would be 100% City cost.

Mercedes Dzindzeleta commented that the Sixth Street corridor should be pedestrian friendly and noted some of the new residential development taking place. She supported stop signs and asked the City, State, and consultant to consider bikes and pedestrians on the route.

Sandy Schmitz of Cobblestone commented she didn't think there were enough one-way signs for motorists to understand the street network.

John Rooney commented that per MUTCD, two one-way signs are required on all approaches and those signs do exist.

Kate Remington asked the Commission to consider the Crandall/Arambula plan that was developed in 2004 for the area. She noted that plan cited two-way streets and also thought the City was ignoring the Historic Sixth Street Association plan.

Rick Jones commented that the Crandall/Arambula plan for two-way streets was not endorsed by the City Council. He noted the City undertook a study of looking at reversing the one-way traffic, making the streets two-way traffic, or leaving them the same. The City Council elected to keep the current configuration; therefore, the consultant on this project was not asked to look at two-way streets. He also noted the Historic Sixth Street Association plan was submitted to the City, and the City of Racine was incorporating all of their ideas into the plan as long as they could be funded, didn't violate any State, local or Federal laws, and had a plurality of support from the property owners on Sixth Street.

Devin Sutherland indicated he liked the idea for all-way stops. He thought the temporary all-way stops that were put on Main Street helped the area. He asked that if people in the area, or business owners, going through Sixth Street during the study period, could comment on the different models that were going to be studied and asked that those comments be submitted on a website.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Jones, seconded by Hurley, to approve the traffic study report and defer the item for the study period. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

2. [07-0727](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from Kevin Barz, 909 Mayfair Drive, requesting a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Monterey Drive and Mayfair Drive.

Recommendation: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

On a motion by Hart, seconded by Letteney, the item was deferred.

Deferred

3. [07-0451](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 5th District requesting the City of Racine work with both DRC and HSSA to install Pedestrian Right of Way signs at crosswalks throughout the Downtown area.

Recommendation: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

On a motion by Hart, seconded by Letteney, the item was deferred.

Deferred

4. [07-0515](#) **Subject:** Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District requesting the City paint bright white crosswalk stripes on each of the crosswalks at the intersections of Washington Ave. and

Arthur/Blaine/Hayes/Grove.

Recommendation: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

On a motion by Hart, seconded by Letteney, the item was deferred.

Deferred

5. [07-0516](#)

Subject: Communication from the Aldermen of the 9th and 12th District requesting that some kind of "Pedestrians have Right of Way" or "Caution: Pedestrians" signage be installed on Washington Ave. on the westbound approach to the intersection of Washington and Grove.

Recommendation: Defer

Fiscal Note: N/A

On a motion by Hart, seconded by Letteney, the item was deferred.

Deferred

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be July 23, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. in Room 304 (Engineering Conference Room), City Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Engineering Department, 636-9166, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.