



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Jim Kaplan
Nicole Larsen
Charles French
John Heckenlively
Mark Yehlen
Dave Wohlgemuth
Robert Mozol*

Monday, November 17, 2014

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 7 - Nicole Larsen, Charles French, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen, Dave Wohlgemuth, Robert Mozol and Jim Kaplan

Also Present: John Rooney, Alderman Perez, Alderman Shakoor, Patrick Starken, Tom Karkow, Steve Avila, Norma Diaz

Approval of Minutes for the October 20, 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

1. [14-10749](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 8th District, on behalf of Steve Avila and Norma Diaz, requesting the installation of safety signs at the intersection of West Street and Dr. M.L. King Jr. Drive.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on November 17, 2014: Defer

Steve Avila and Alderman Shakoor appeared before the Commission and requested that flashing beacon warning lights be placed near the intersection of West Street and Dr. M.L. King Jr. Drive to slow down traffic.

Alderman Shakoor submitted a petition with signatures attached for the request.

John Rooney noted that 10 years ago, a similar request was made for a crossing guard and flashing beacon warning lights. He noted, at the time, the guard was not warranted at the location and a speed study also had shown the flashing beacon warning lights were not required, as well. He noted what the minimum standards are for flashing beacon warning lights. He noted the road has been rebuilt since that time, lanes narrowed with a bike lane installed. He noted a speed study could be performed to see if speeds have rose to a condition to warrant such an installation.

He indicated to perform a gap study for the guard, he would need to temporarily have the guard relieved so they could measure to see if gaps are still an issue at the location. Because of the winter months coming up, tube counters for a speed study could not be placed until spring.

The Racine Police Department was going to explore using the speed trailer, as well.

John Rooney recommended the item be deferred for study.

Motion made by Heckenlively, seconded by Wohlgemuth to defer. Passed unanimously.

Deferred

2. [14-10746](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from RPD, on behalf of the principals of Jerstad Agerholm Middle and Elementary Schools, requesting signage changes at 3601/3523 La Salle Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on November 17, 2014: Recommends that the request to change school parking areas in the 800 block of North Street and the 3500-3600 block of LaSalle Street from "No Parking, Stopping, Standing 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on School Days" to "No Parking Loading Zone 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on School Days" be approved.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.

Lt. Wohlgemuth explained the request by Sgt. Neubauer of RPD to change some of the parking restrictions around the school. He noted Jerstad has fewer buses and they wanted to open up areas for loading zones for parent drop-off and pick-up. Lt. Wohlgemuth noted this would increase circulation better as parents wouldn't have to double-park to drop-off and pick-up students.

Patrick Starcken appeared before the Traffic Commission on behalf of RUSD and agreed with the changes being proposed.

Motion made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

3. [14-10625](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District requesting referral to the Traffic Commission a request to remove the east/west stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Mead Street. **Alderman Sarrazin invited to the meeting.**

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:
Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on November 17, 2014: Recommends that the request to remove the stop signs on the

east and west approaches of the intersection of De Koven Avenue and Mead Street be approved.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage change will result in a removal cost of \$100 and no annual maintenance cost.

John Rooney distributed the traffic study, per the Alderman of the 2nd District's request to remove the east/west stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Mead Street. He noted the study also included the next item which was 14-10626 to add stop signs at De Koven Avenue and Franklin Street, making it a four-way stop. He noted based on the results of the study, the all-ways stop at Mead Street is not warranted and has actually created a more hazardous situation with accidents. He noted nearly all motorists do not anticipate a stop sign one block away from a signalized intersection. He recommended the traffic control be two-way stop with stop signs facing the north and south approaches of Mead Street. He also noted the warrants were checked to see if all-way stops were needed near Franklin Street and noted the warrants were not met and recommended that traffic control be left unchanged.

Motion made by Yehlen, seconded by Wohlgemuth to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

4. [14-10626](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 2nd District requesting referral to the Traffic Commission a request to add stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Franklin Street, making it a four-way stop. **Alderman Sarrazin invited to the meeting.**

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:
Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on November 17, 2014: Receive and file.

Fiscal Note: N/A

John Rooney distributed the traffic study, per the Alderman of the 2nd District's request to remove the east/west stop signs on De Koven Avenue at Mead Street. He noted the study also included the next item which was 14-10626 to add stop signs at De Koven Avenue and Franklin Street, making it a four-way stop. He also noted the warrants were checked to see if all-way stops were needed near Franklin Street and noted the warrants were not met and recommended that traffic control be left unchanged.

Motion made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to receive and file. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

5. [14-10387](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from the Alderman of the 12th District requesting a traffic study be conducted on Ohio Street by Lockwood Park.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on July 21, 2014:

Deferred

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on October 20, 2014:

Recommends that the communication be received and filed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on November 17, 2014: Recommends that the item be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Recommendation of the Public Works and Services Committee on December 9, 2014: Defer

Alderman Perez appeared before the Traffic Commission and indicated that all but two aldermen sent this item back to the Traffic Commission to see what could be done to reduce the speeds at this location. He expressed concerns for speeding on Ohio Street and for pedestrians trying to safely cross the intersection to get to the park. He believes it is the Council's desire to slow speeds down in that neighborhood.

Mark Yehlen noted that slowing the speeds down by speed humps or speed bumps is typically more representative of what could be done on a local street and not on an arterial street. He said, in addition to speed humps or speed bumps, they create problems for snow and ice operations, along with emergency vehicles. He commented that short of narrowing the street down to narrow lanes, it would be quite difficult to slow speeds down.

John Rooney noted that the issue of the speeds is not something that can or should be addressed by lowering the speed limits. He still believes the area is marked too low and should be looked at for increasing the speed limit, seeing that 85% of the vehicles driving at the speed of about 40 mph are doing so safely.

Mark Yehlen noted the engineers followed the MUTCD devices when it comes to traffic issues and it is that publication that is followed when making traffic engineering decisions.

John Rooney noted the solution to control speeds at this location is not to install traffic controls such as all-way stop signs or traffic signals. He reiterated those are meant to assign right-of-way and not control speeds. He suggested maybe this item should be referred to the Public Works and Services Committee to see if a proposal should be solicited for a professional traffic operations engineer to study the corridor and make recommends on how to reduce speeds along the corridor.

Bob Mozol preferred that the item should simply be handled by targeted speed enforcement. He indicated that speed enforcement and writing tickets has been going on for a long time and that is the duty of the police department to control the speeds along a corridor by strict enforcement.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Heckenlively, seconded by Yehlen to refer the item to Public Works and Services Committee and conduct targeted speed

enforcement.

On a roll call vote, members voting aye: Heckenlively, Yehlen, Wohlgemuth

Members voting naye: Mozol, Larsen

Motion passed 3:2

Recommended For Further Consideration

6. [14-10777](#)

Subject: In accordance with Section 2-95 of the Municipal Code of the general ordinances of the City of Racine, recommends that the following requests for changes in traffic code be granted:

A. Recommends that Section 94-66(1) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "Through Streets" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. De Koven Avenue, from west line of Wisconsin Avenue to east line of Taylor Avenue except at Mead Street.

By Including:

1. De Koven Avenue, from west line of Wisconsin Avenue to east line of Taylor Avenue.

B. Recommends that Section 94-66(3) of Schedule C of the Municipal Code of the General Ordinances of the City of Racine relative to "All-way stop intersections" be amended:

By Deleting:

1. Mead Street and De Koven Avenue.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date - December 15, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. in Room 303 at City Hall

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Department of Public Works, 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.