



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Traffic Commission

Dave Wohlgemuth
Robert Mozol
John Heckenlively
Mark Yehlen
Nhu Tran
Charles French
Alderman Mollie Jones

Monday, October 16, 2017

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

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

PRESENT: 7 - Dave Wohlgemuth, Robert Mozol, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen, Nhu Tran, Charles French and Mollie Jones

Also Present: John Rooney, Marisa Kasriel attended on behalf of Nhu Tran, Sgt. Koetting attended on behalf of Lt. Wohlgemuth, Jeffrey Peterson, Tom Karkow

Approval of Minutes for the September 18, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

New Business

[491-17](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderman of the 3rd District, on behalf of Jeff Ventura - 1652 Phillips Avenue, requesting a stop or yield sign be placed at the southbound intersection of Phillips Avenue and 17th Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 06-19-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 07-17-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 10-16-17: Receive and file.

John Rooney explained the traffic study near the off T-intersection at Phillips Avenue and 17th Street. He noted the intersection had been studied in the past to place parking restrictions to assist truck deliveries in the area. He noted the request was for stop approach on Phillips coming from the south. He noted that the two intersections, which are T's, are closely related to make up one large offset T, which are both stop controlled facing 17th Street. He noted a study of the area showed no need to make the intersection all-way traffic control. He noted an accident study of the area over the last five years only showed one accident that was not correctable by traffic control due

to weather related. He recommended it be received and filed.

Motion made by Mozol, seconded by Yehlen. Passed unanimously.

Recommended to be Received and Filed

[734-17](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderwoman of the 6th District, on behalf of Michael Wright, requesting a stop sign be installed at the intersection of Carmel, Columbia and Clarence Streets.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 08-21-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 10-16-17:

Recommends that stop control be added to the north approach of Carmel Avenue, where it intersects with Columbia Street.

Further recommends supplemental signs be added to all stop control approaches that indicate traffic from Columbia Street does not stop.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$300.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$120.00.

John Rooney read the traffic study to the Traffic Commission and noted that when the intersection was reconstructed 10 years ago, a concrete median island was installed on the north approach to better define the movements of the north side of the intersection. At that time, only the south approaches of the intersection at Carmel and Clarence were stop controlled. He noted the majority of traffic comes from the east up Columbia. He noted the lowest volume approach was from the north as it only generates traffic from the few homes and church north of the intersection. He did note one accident that had occurred in the last five years was the result of a vehicle driving southbound through the intersection, which hit a vehicle driving westbound from Columbia. He noted this accident is correctable with traffic control and recommended stop signs be placed on both sides of the island for the north approach. He further recommended supplemental signs be placed below the stop signs on the north and south approach indicating traffic from Colombia does not stop. He noted that is the highest movement in that intersection and would prefer to leave that through movement.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Yehlen, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

[757-17](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderwoman of the 6th District, on behalf of Melissa and Jeff Peterson, requesting either a yield or stop sign be installed at the intersection of Westwood Drive and Maria Street.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 08-21-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 10-16-17:

Recommends that the item be received and filed.

Further recommends that warning signs indicating curve ahead on Westwood Drive and supplementary reduced speed limit sign be installed for westbound traffic.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.00.

John Rooney read the traffic study to the Traffic Commission and explained the intersection of Maria and Westwood is extremely low volume, serving less than 200 vehicles a day, after performing traffic counts. He also noted no issues with sight lines at the intersection. Lastly, he noted a study of accidents at the intersection found no accidents had occurred in the last five years. He did note there was an accident to the east of the intersection involving a moving van and a tree which was unrelated to the intersection and that two accidents occurred west of the intersection with a vehicle leaving the curve. He noted there were no accident reports as they were hit and run. He did note there were two incident reports filed for that. He recommended receiving and filing the request for traffic control at the intersection but recommended installing warning signs for the curve ahead on Westwood Drive west of Maria. He noted warning signs would be posted with an advisory speed down to 15 mph to negotiate that 180 degree turn back to Maria. He noted the warning sign would be placed in advance of the intersection to the east for westbound traffic.

Jeffrey Peterson thanked the Traffic Commission for the study and approved the recommendation as well.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Mozol, seconded by Heckenlively to approve. Passed unanimously to receive and file the communication for traffic control at the intersection, but approve the installation of warning signs.

Recommended For Approval

[633-17](#)

Subject: Communication from the Alderwoman of the 15th District requesting to discuss the placing of traffic calming measures on Erie Street between Melvin Avenue and Three Mile Road.

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 07-17-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 09-18-17: Defer

Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 10-16-17:

Recommends that designated bicycle lanes and associated signage for northbound and southbound directions be installed on Erie Street, from Melvin Avenue to Three Mile Road.

Fiscal Note: The estimated cost of this pavement marking will result in an installation cost of \$1,500.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$300.00.

Sgt. Koetting appeared on behalf of Lt. Wohlgemuth to update the Traffic Commission regarding the fatal accident that occurred on June 17, 2017. He described the

accident that occurred at 4:42 PM just north of South Street. He noted the vehicle was traveling southbound at a high rate of speed estimated at 50 to 60 mph. He noted as the vehicle was traveling southbound, it passed a left-turning vehicle in the parking lane to go around it. He then informed the Traffic Commission the vehicle then tried to reenter the southbound travel lane quickly because of parked vehicles in advance of the southbound side. The motorist lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree on the opposite side of the street. He noted the vehicle was nearly cut in two by the collision with the tree. He noted there were two occupants in the vehicle, both occupants died due to the crash and this was a single vehicle accident. He noted the accident was not weather related. He also noted that the driver's condition was not a factor in the accident, as well. He understood from the owners of the vehicle that perhaps the brakes were not working as best as they should have.

In response to a question by Bob Mozol regarding the age of the drivers and their experience in driving, Sgt. Koetting indicated this was clearly related to the speed of the vehicle and the reckless driving on a 30 mph posted roadway.

Charlie French inquired whether a speed trailer could be placed yet this fall before the winter weather sets in.

Sgt. Koetting indicated that could be scheduled as soon as one is available.

Secretary Rooney suggested to the Traffic Commission as a means to calm traffic in the area, would be to install permanent bike lanes with pavement markings along with signage along the corridor from Melvin to Three Mile Road on Erie Street both directions. He noted the roadway is 50 feet wide from curb face to curb face and lends itself to very high speeds when the travel lanes are as wide as they currently are. He noted 8 foot parking lanes could remain with 5 foot bicycle lanes marked in each direction which would leave 12 foot travel lanes both north and southbound. He believes these pavement markings will help narrow the roadway and also provide some type of friction to the motorist that will not tend to use the entire roadwidth to accelerate down Erie Street. He also noted that signage would be placed along the corridor for the bicycle lane itself and also no passing signs would be placed as well, so there would be driving prohibited in the bicycle and parking lanes for passing. He also showed the Traffic Commission a street in the Bayview neighborhood, just south of the 3rd Ward in Milwaukee, on South Bay Street where it showed a roadway that was recently reconditioned/resurfaced that had raised parking lanes and raised bicycle lanes built with mountable curb to better separate both the parking and bicycle traffic from the travel lane. He noted when Erie Street is due for resurfacing in the next 5 to 10 years this would be a viable option for that roadway, if that is what the Traffic Commission and Common Council would like to do at that time. He also directed the Traffic Commission's attention to a speed study that was performed the first week of August. He noted pneumatic tubes were placed in three different blocks at the same time between Melvin and Three Mile Road. He noted while the average speeds for the corridor were approximately 31.5 mph and the 50 percentile speeds were approximately 33. He noted the 80 percentile speeds were closer to 38 mph. He noted that is because of the existing wide travel lanes that are out there right now. As a comparison during the exact same time, the Engineering Department did a speed tube study south of Melvin, where the roadway is only 36 feet wide. He noted those average speeds were less than 27 mph and the 50 percentile speed was closer to 29 mph. He noted that because the roadway is narrower south of Melvin Avenue, that is why the vehicles travel at a lower speed. He was not a proponent of lowering the speed limit on Erie Street, between Melvin and Three Mile Road to 25 mph. He feels that is unnecessary, but believes narrowing the roadway will result in lower speeds due to the narrower feel

and look of the roadway.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Mozol, seconded by Heckenlively to install bicycle lanes and the appropriate signage. Mark Yehlen noted the Public Works Department would be in favor of performing the pavement markings and maintaining it in the future. John Rooney also noted Erie Street is the designated route for Lake Michigan Pathway from Melvin Avenue to Three Mile Road as Lake Michigan Pathway uses Erie Street to go westbound on South Street and westbound on Three Mile Road to get to the County's bike trail just east of the railroad crossing west of Douglas Avenue. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

Next Meeting Date - November 20, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. in Room 303 at City Hall

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 P.M.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Department of Public Works, (262) 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.