

Approved Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, January 28, 2013
Council Chambers - Village Hall

Call To Order And Roll Call

Chair Jack Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present: Jack Chalabian, Craig Chesney, Lee Lazar, Mark Patzloff, Michael Stewart.

Excused: Andre Bonakdar

Staff: Jim Budrick, Mike Koperniak, Jill Juliano, Jill Velan.

Non-Agenda Item Public Comments

None.

Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, was seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Draft November 26, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lazar motioned to approve the November 26, 2012 Transportation Commission meeting minutes and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

RANDOLPH CROSSING (AT EAST AVENUE), RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING REQUEST

Interim Parking Services Manager Jill Velan gave a PowerPoint presentation on the agenda item exhibits for this issue. Presentation included recapping history of the issue and answering Commissioners' initial questions.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Mary Irving of 608 Randolph is in support of the petition. When the 8AM-10AM restriction was removed in this area, this block was forgotten. If a resident moves their car in the morning, a Fenwick student takes the spot for the entire day.

Angelo Messina of 610 Randolph is in support of the petition. He works from home and is in and out during the day. When he drives away from home, a Fenwick student takes his spot.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

Commissioner Chesney supports resident permit parking and it will clean up the parking restrictions on East Avenue.

Commissioners Patzloff and Stewart both stated the request is reasonable.

Chair Chalabian asked what are the day permit hours. Interim Parking Services Manager Velan replied either 8AM-4PM or 9AM-5PM. Commissioner Chesney asked about Fenwick student parking restriction hours. Staff responded 8AM-4PM.

Chair Chalabian spoke about shared parking philosophy and why he is hesitant about this request.

Commission discussed resident needs versus shared parking concept. They also had a discussion about fairness issue of students versus taxpaying residents.

Commissioner Chesney mentioned that Fenwick School has students pay for parking (parking permits). Students have found a way to circumvent those parking restrictions.

Commissioner Lazar asked if this request would be part of an existing zone. Staff responded no, that was not the petitioned request. Commissioner Lazar stated only favors petition if added to an existing zone. He asked what would happen if he made a motion to expand an existing zone. Interim Parking Services Manager Velan explained the Village would need to give public notice to expand the zone.

Commissioner Chesney said that expanding an existing zone should be looked at in another meeting. The Commission needs to address the petition that is before them.

Commissioner Chesney motioned to approve the request for resident permit parking for Randolph only 8AM-4PM MON-FRI and install NO PARKING 8AM-10AM MON-FRI the one parking space on East Avenue. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Craig Chesney, Lee Lazar, Mark Patzloff, Mike Stewart

NAYS: Jack Chalabian

The motion passed 4 to 1.

PETITION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE ON THE 1200 BLOCK OF WOODBINE AVENUE

Staff Liaison Mike Koperniak gave a PowerPoint presentation on the agenda item exhibits for this issue. Staff Liaison Koperniak provided a summary of the written public testimony received by the Village (see emails attached to these minutes).

The Commission asked a few questions of Staff. Then the floor was opened to public testimony.

Julie Denise of 1217 Woodbine gave her reasons for supporting the petition. They included: parking and traffic safety (her husband and baby were rear ended). A diverter is their first choice. The block is a thoroughfare.

Michael Kochevar of 1217 Woodbine spoke of the parking issue. There are days when block is filled with cars. Employees of North Avenue businesses (Berkeley, medical offices, and Don Harmon's staff and volunteers) park on their block all day long. He prefers a diverter and mentioned the block came before the Commission ten years ago and now they are back again.

Pete Alessandro is a new resident. He spoke of during Saturdays the block is very dangerous with parked cars and speeding vehicles.

Kristin Birmbach of 1202 Woodbine stated she has lived on the block for thirty years and has observed speeding traffic and vehicles rolling through the STOP signs.

Denise Rouser of 1216 Woodbine stated the study data is representative of the parking and traffic issues on the block, especially when there is any sort of event at Lindberg Park. The parking is worse. She supports the petition.

Al Martino of 1104 Woodbine mentioned there are rolling stops at Woodbine and LeMoyne.

Michael Cassas of 1226 Woodbine talked of the cul-de-sacs and resident permit parking on the 1200 blocks of both Marion and Belleforte. The businesses can't park on those blocks.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

Commissioner Lazar supports staff recommendation of NO RIGHT TURN 7AM-9AM, 4PM-6PM, MON-FRI signage. He also mentioned the block would be a candidate for a speed table.

Commissioner Stewart also supports staff recommendation of the NO RIGHT TURN signage. He believes there is a speeding problem that needs to be addressed. He would like increased enforcement for speeding, vehicles making rolling stops and parking issues. He would also support a speed table for this block.

Commissioner Patzloff spoke of the heavy southbound traffic, vehicular speeds and the amount of parked cars.

Commissioner Stewart mentioned if an employee gets a ticket, then others will find out. With a little enforcement, the word would get out to others.

Chair Chalabian stated there is a speed and parking issue here. He spoke of this being a residential street yet it being impacted by the cul-de-sacs on the other streets along North Avenue. He felt there is a need for a more comprehensive approach in the area and that residents should take precedence over the North Avenue businesses. Chair Chalabian supports more restrictive measures such as a diverter. He also supports enforcement of the 2 hour parking restrictions.

Commissioner Chesney said if the speed table policy were possible then the Commission would have looked at this request differently. It would be another option to manage the issues occurring in the area.

Commissioner Lazar compared this situation with the 1200 blocks of Rossell and North Elmwood and the temporary traffic diverters presently in place.

Commissioner Stewart said he heard most residents prefer the diverter over the NO RIGHT TURN signage.

Chair Chalabian spoke of the impacts to the residents of a traffic diverter.

Commissioner Lazar motioned to adopt staff recommendations of:

1. Installation of NO RIGHT TURN 7AM-9AM, 4PM-6PM, MON-FRI signs for eastbound North Avenue traffic at Woodbine.
2. Increased enforcement of the 2 HOUR PARKING 9AM-5PM MON-SAT parking restrictions
3. Increased traffic enforcement of the posted speed limit on the block.
4. Six months after the proposed actions have been implemented, Staff will conduct additional parking and traffic studies and bring them back to the Commission to review the effects of the actions. And, if needed, recommend additional steps to address any remaining traffic or parking issues.

Commissioner Chesney seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: Craig Chesney, Lee Lazar, Mark Patzloff, Mike Stewart

NAYS: Jack Chalabian

The motion passed 4 to 1.

Juliano, Jill

From: Martinez, Jeanne [jemartin@nmh.org]
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Subject: Petition for Traffic Control - 1200 Blk Woodbine

As a long-time resident of the 1100 Woodbine block (1119 Woodbine), I am strongly opposed to any traffic diversions, prohibitions, or a one-way street change on the 1200 block of Woodbine. Access is already blocked from North Ave onto Forest, and limited onto Grove during rush hour. A diversion on Woodbine would force all traffic into Oak Park from North Avenue onto Oak Park Ave. Oak Park Avenue is already too congested and backed up much of the time, especially at rush hour times. I already try to avoid that intersection at all costs. Any of your 3 diversion proposals would exacerbate that situation. Also, Woodbine Avenue has always been and still is very quiet, even with Lindberg Park behind us, there is little car traffic on Woodbine.

I imagine that parking may be an issue on the 1200 block of Woodbine, in the area near North Avenue only. Therefore, enforcing the current parking restriction makes the most sense, and would not cost the village, but could rather enhance revenue. The village is certainly capable of enforcing parking in the business district (even to the detriment of businesses), so I don't know why that cannot be accomplished on Woodbine, as well. There have been other attempts in this neighborhood since i have lived here to change streets to one-way. I know of 2 instances (Berkshire, near Kenilworth and Division), that subsequently had to be reversed back to the way it was - huge waste of resources, and added inconvenience to everyone in the area. I urge Oak Park not to make another such mistake.

Jeanne Martinez
1119 Woodbine Ave

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Juliano, Jill

From: pgoom73@comcast.net

Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 5:19 PM

To: Juliano, Jill

Subject: Traffic Control Device on 1200 Block of Woodbine

Ms. Jill Juliano
Transportation Engineer
Village of Oak Park
Public Works Center
201 South Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60302

1/22/13

re: Traffic Control Device on the
1200 Block of Woodbine

Dear Ms. Juliano:

We have lived at 1115 Woodbine since 1977 and in Oak Park since 1973. We have seen many streets blocked from entry in various ways, especially at the borders of our village, but also within the interior. At present, access to our area is restricted at Marion, Belleforte, Forest and Kenilworth, leaving only Woodbine and Grove as access from the north and Grove has time restrictions posted. We can enter from Berkshire, Greenfield and LeMoyne, from the east or west, via Harlem and Oak Park Ave.

As each of these areas were blocked or traffic limited it pushed more traffic to the streets that were still open. I don't believe these were good decisions then and I don't believe restricting Woodbine access would be a good decision now. Parking for businesses is limited on North Ave. and on Woodbine to the alley. Some spillover south of the alley is inevitable. Some time limit on parking in this area is reasonable but it should also be allowed on the other north-south streets in the area so that no one section is unduly impacted. I believe a traffic diverter would be the worst option as it permanently blocks access. Equally bad would be converting the 1200 block to northbound only. While peak hour access limits is seemingly less objectionable, it all still begs the question of "who are we serving by these restrictions?" The greater good for all who live in this sector is maintaining reasonable access.

In fact, I believe the area between North and Division, Harlem and Oak Park Ave. should have better access than it does currently, not worse. Lindberg Park is in this section and creates a lot of traffic flow, especially in the after school hours during Spring, Summer and Fall. There are already adequate stop signs throughout this section to control traffic speeds.

Keep in mind that delivery trucks and repairmen, as well as other home services need to access our area throughout the day and access is also needed to our alleys which is impacted by the street closings.

I come home nightly eastbound on North Ave. Traffic east of Harlem is often backed up, creating a delay getting to Woodbine. To avoid this I either enter River Forest at Lathrop and take LeMoyne east and have to find a traffic break to get across Harlem (not easy) or turn south at Harlem and have to make a left turn at LeMoyne. When going westbound on North Ave. from the east, it is easier to turn left at Oak Park Ave. and then right onto LeMoyne than to wait to make a left turn onto Woodbine.

It is my opinion that Woodbine remain open to access from North Ave., that some parking access be allowed on all our north-south streets in this area and that opening one of the closed streets would help alleviate any perceived traffic problem on the 1200 block of Woodbine.

Yours truly,

Michael Goodman

Juliano, Jill

From: Ray Connor [rayconnor@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 11:27 AM
To: Juliano, Jill
Subject: Woodbine Avenue Traffic Control

I STRONGLY OBJECT to further limitations on traffic flow in this area. I frequently come home on North Avenue. Woodbine is the only way I can reach my house since right turns on Grove Avenue are no longer allowed during peak times. Woodbine is the only open street in this area during these peak times when Grove is restricted (why?).

These restrictions inconvenience residents like myself and force us to take circuitous routes on other Oak Park streets, thereby increasing traffic on those streets.

Raymond Connor
1218 N Grove Ave.
Oak Park

Juliano, Jill

From: Skoge, Stephen [Stephen.Skoge@Covidien.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 11:27 AM
To: Budrick, Jim; Juliano, Jill
Subject: 1200 Block of Woodbine Ave

Jim and Jill,

I hope this message finds you well. Our home sits in the 1200 block of Woodbine ave (1222) and is heavily affected by the traffic on a daily basis.

Unfortunately due to work travel I will be unable to attend the meeting next Monday to discuss live but wanted to voice my interest/concern into this matter.

It's sad or unfortunate to say but had we known about the heavy and often dangerous traffic patterns on the block prior to moving into our home in Aug of 2010, we most likely wouldn't have purchased in the area.

The issues stem from numerous things but most directly are related to heavy work parking/traffic during the day and weekends and drive through traffic from North ave (which creates a dangerous speeding path with multiple blind spots having the heavy parking traffic daily).

Having just had our first child 15 months ago the speeding back and forth now offsets any annoyance of cars parked on the block day in and day out, its concerning to think about my son running out between a car to chase something or grab a toy. Worst case scenario, yes, but I do feel the danger is real.

How can we fix the issue? It's evident that the 2 hour limit isn't really working, nor is the monitoring of it. We see cars leave for a week and then like clockwork come back when the enforcement officers are elsewhere. Discussing the matter with many on the block, the true best case scenario is putting in a diverter similar to the 1200 block of Forest ave that allows traffic in from Le Moyne ave but not in from North. This would 100% divert the "Nascar" like activity we have currently. An added perk with this approval and installation I feel would be through an increase in property value in all of the homes on the 1200 block. Speaking with a local realtor, a similar size home on either block east or west of us (with a turnaround or a diverter) simply has more value to a family looking to buy a house.

I appreciate the time put in and attention into the matter, trivial as it seems it really would not only bring our block a significant amount of intrinsic value, it would give the 95% of us that have children that "peace of mind" that everyone strives to have!

Best,

Stephen Skoge
(612) 840-4405 (C)
(708) 434-5640 (F)

Juliano, Jill

From: Harriet Roberts [harrietemery@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 9:35 PM

To: Budrick, Jim; Juliano, Jill

Cc: Julie.B.Denise@jci.com

Subject: Improved traffic safety on Woodbine Ave

Dear Mr. Budrick and Ms. Juliano,

We are writing to add our wholehearted support to the petition that will be introduced Monday night for an improvement in traffic safety on our block, 1200 block of Woodbine.

Ours is the only open, southbound street between Harlem and Oak Park Ave. Drivers speed down our street at the end of the day, when there are children playing in their front yards. We understand that the following options are being considered:

--install a cul-de-sac

--install a traffic diverter similar to the one in the 1200 block of Forest Ave.

--improve the conditions for the two hour parking limitation.

We join with our neighbors to petition the village to expedite these safety improvements.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John and Harriet Roberts

1223 Woodbine

Oak Park, IL 60302

708-383-5998

Juliano, Jill

From: Clouser, Rance [rance.clouser@advocatehealth.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 7:08 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Subject: Petition for Woodbine Avenue

Ms. Juliano,

I am writing in regards to the petition for the 1200 block of Woodbine Avenue. I am a resident of the 1200 block of Forest Avenue.

Managing traffic flow from North Avenue into the Village should be of prime importance to the Village administration. I support efforts to create a traffic management plan for the traffic flow from North Avenue into the northwest corner of Oak Park, bounded by Oak Park Avenue and Harlem Avenue. The street I live on is one-way northbound between LeMoyne and the alley. There is a traffic diverter at the alley, and the street becomes two-way between the alley and North Avenue.

On Forest, drivers frequently turn off North Avenue, go around the diverter and speed the wrong way down the one-way street. It is not uncommon for drivers going the wrong way to have near-misses with other vehicles and pedestrians when they reach the corner of Forest and LeMoyne. Many of the pedestrians are children. Another issue we face is the lack of law enforcement presence in the area. Without law enforcement intervention, any traffic or parking management practice is rendered ineffective – whether it's on Forest or Woodbine.

My concern with the options outlined in the petition is the potential negative impact on Forest Avenue and the other neighboring streets. I request the Commission research the impact of any and all changes to traffic management in the area prior to identifying a recommendation.

Rance & Kerstin Clouser
1210 Forest Avenue
Oak Park IL
708-205-6007

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Juliano, Jill

From: BRETT SAMUELS [cmlady@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 12:14 PM
To: Budrick, Jim; Juliano, Jill
Cc: julie.b.denise@jci.com; DAVID SAMUELS
Subject: Woodbine Traffic Meeting

Dear Transportation Commission,

I have lived at 1215 Woodbine for 20 years. Over this time, we have experienced many unsafe situations for our family because this residential street is open to North Avenue. Cars not only speed down Woodbine trying to avoid North Avenue traffic, they also speed down our alley. They often do not stop at the Woodbine/LeMoyne stop sign. This is especially scary when all of the kids are riding their bikes to play sports at Lindberg park.

Our parked car was hit by a driver not paying attention as she sped down Woodbine - she totalled her car and heavily damaged ours. People turn around in our driveways often, especially once they try to get off of North Ave and see it is a residential area. This endangers all of our children playing after school, using our driveway basketball nets and playing outside after school. We endure people parking in front while they eat meals and throw their trash on our lawn.

The bottom line - it is unfair to allow the other residential streets between Harlem and Oak Park Avenue to be closed to North Ave - while Woodbine is open - thereby inviting speeders and those in a hurry to avoid North Avenue traffic to come down our residential street and put us all in harms way. These drivers are in a hurry - that's why they want to find a "shortcut."

We are asking you to install a diverter at Woodbine and North Avenue however, we also agree with your staff recommendations:

1. Install NO RIGHT TURN 7-9, 4-6 mon-fri for eastbound North Avenue Traffic
2. Increase Enforcement of 2 hour parking
3. Periodic enforcement of speed limit

For our safety, I hope you will take these complaints into consideration when making your decisions.

Sincerely,

Brett and David Samuels
1215 Woodbine, Oak Park

Juliano, Jill

From: ghedlund@att.net

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 4:02 PM

To: Juliano, Jill

Subject: Woodbine traffic issue

Dear Ms. Juliano,

This email is in response to a letter we received regarding installing a traffic control device on the 1200 block of Woodbine. We live on the 1200 block of Grove Ave; which would make Grove the **only** through street off of North Ave if a diverter, or making Woodbine a one way northbound street were implemented. We don't know what the exact issues are for the 1200 block of Woodbine, but we know it would impact our block and our alley negatively, (as it is, drivers now come off of North Ave on Kennilworth where there is a cul de sac, thus forcing them have to use the alley), by not allowing cars down Woodbine from North Ave. Grove becomes the only through street from Harlem to Oak Park Ave.

If there needs to be a resolution to some traffic issue on Woodbine, the one we feel would be fair, to Grove residents, is enforcing a no right turn off of North onto Woodbine during peak hours.

Sincerely,
Kurt and Gayle Hedlund
1221 N Grove Ave

Juliano, Jill

From: Ed and Mary Jane [edandmjrunyan@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 5:27 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Cc: julie.B.Denise@jci.com
Subject: Woodbine Traffic

Dear Transportation Commission,

We have lived at 1209 Woodbine for twelve years and would like to voice our concern about the traffic on our block. We contacted people in your office when we first moved in because it didn't (and still doesn't) seem fair that the three streets west of us are all blocked to North Avenue traffic. As you know, we are one of only two streets open to traffic between Harlem and Oak Park Avenue. This causes an inordinate amount of traffic on Woodbine.

We would like to request that some compromise (solution) be reached to restrict the amount and speed of traffic entering the 1200 block of Woodbine from North Avenue.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter, Mary Jane and Ed Runyan

BIKE HELMET SAFETY IN OAK PARK/PRESENTATION BY DR. RAVI GRIVOIS-SHAH

Dr. Ravi Grivois-Shah made a presentation to the Transportation Commission. The presentation included statement of the problem, statistical data on bicycling, incidents, associated health care costs to the individual and society, and how the implementation of bike helmets can assist in the reduction of incidents. Dr. Grivois-Shah provided information on what other jurisdictions (local and otherwise) are doing to increase bicycling safety. This information included the effectiveness of helmet use mandates and educational programs/campaigns.

After the presentation the individual Commissioners asked questions of Dr. Grivois-Shah and provided their input to him. Essentially, they while the appreciate the intent of the advocacy and increasing bike helmet safety awareness through education and incentives, they are not in support of a bike helmet law or mandate.

There being no further business, Commissioner Patzloff motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectively submitted

Jill Juliano, Transportation Engineer