

Approved Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, November 25, 2013
Council Chambers - Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jack Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Andre Bonakdar, Jack Chalabian, Will Gillespie, Michael Stewart, Craig Chesney (7:02 PM)

Excused: Lee Lazar, Mark Patzloff

Staff: Jim Budrick, Jill Juliano, Jill Velan

Non-Agenda Item Public Comments

There were no non-agenda public comments.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Bonakdar motioned and Commissioner Stewart seconded, to approve tonight's meeting agenda as presented. The voice vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Approval of the Draft October 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Gillespie motioned to approve the October 28, 2013 Transportation Commission meeting minutes and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

REVIEW THE EFFECTS OF NO RIGHT TURN 7AM-9AM, 4PM-6PM, MON-FRI SIGN ON NORTH AVE AT WOODBINE AVE (APPROVED AND INSTALLED MARCH 2013)

Transportation Engineer Jill Juliano gave a presentation on the effects of the installed sign prohibiting right turns onto Woodbine Ave by eastbound North Ave traffic, including a summary of the collected traffic study data and the generated collision diagrams.

Chair Chalabian asked why there was no recommendation for this item. Staff said they wanted to discuss the issue with the Commission and have collaboration on the recommendation.

Chair Chalabian then asked about enforcement of the parking and traffic regulations on the block. Sergeant Jacobson from Oak Park's Police Department stated the Police

Department conducted two targeted traffic enforcement periods of 4 weeks. Other Staff mentioned that Parking Enforcement conducted at least one parking targeted enforcement for a period of two weeks.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Julie Denise-Kochevar of 1217 Woodbine spoke of the 20 to 22 children on the block and that speeding is still an issue in the afternoon. She is requesting that another option be implemented such as a cul-de-sac, traffic diverter or speed table. Parking is getting better on the block.

Royace Prather of 1103 Woodbine said he is a 32 year Village resident located at Greenfield and Woodbine. The NO RIGHT TURN prohibition has helped. However vehicles continue to speed down Woodbine. Vehicles also speed on Greenfield next to Lindberg Park. The section of Greenfield adjacent to Lindberg Park is a Park Zone with a 20 mile per hour speed limit. The signs list the 20 mph speed limit is when children are present. Mr. Prather feels the phrase "when children are present" should be eliminated.

Ray Heise of 1212 Woodbine mentioned this block is first open street from east of Harlem Avenue. Southbound traffic continues to speed on the block. If the street is to remain open then a speed table or bump should be installed. He further stated the only speed bump on a Village street is on East Avenue and has been extremely effective. He is in favor of a speed table.

Ms. Juliano read a synopsis of the submitted written testimony. The written testimony is attached to these minutes.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

Commissioner Bonakdar does not want to close off Oak Park; it seems sensible to implement a speed table as a logical next step.

Commissioner Gillespie agrees with Commissioner Bonakdar. The volumes are within the typical range; it is mostly a speed issue. He is more inclined to recommend a speed table rather than a traffic diverter.

Commissioner Stewart reiterated this is a speeding issue and the resident's request for a speed table is reasonable. He asked if the speed table is seasonal.

Village Engineer Jim Budrick provided background on the speed tables installed on the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of South East Avenue. The first year speed tables were installed on all three blocks, each subsequent year, one of the speed tables was removed. The speed table installed in 2013 had with slots for emergency vehicle to straddle the device. The speed table with slots was not effective in reducing vehicle

speeds; while speed tables that spanned the width of the roadway did have an effect on the vehicular speeds.

Mr. Budrick further explained the Village is still testing the speed table devices. Since these are test tables, they are removed in November for the winter season. He also mentioned the option to install advance warning signage for the RIGHT TURN prohibition for eastbound North Avenue traffic during the AM and PM peak hours as well as increased frequency of parking and traffic enforcement on the block.

Commissioner Stewart said once there is a final speed table design, it will be a year-round device. The speed policy is moving forward but not yet all the way through the decision-making process.

Mr. Budrick explained that the proposed speed table policy has a petition process for the residents. However the present policy prohibits the installation of speed tables on Village streets.

At this point, Chair Chalabian and Mr. Budrick supplied the history of the speed table policy. At present, the Village Board of Trustees has not discussed the proposed speed table policy. Mr. Budrick mentioned there are three full-width speed tables and two slotted speed tables in inventory.

Chair Chalabian stated when spring comes then we can look at speed tables for a number of other blocks.

Commissioner Chesney spoke of the cul-de-sac and traffic diverter options, and Village Board's desire not to close off the Village.

Commissioner Bonakdar pointed out the Commission sees this issue over and over again and the speed table is an option that would help.

Chair Chalabian believes the speed table is the remedy but it is not currently in the toolbox, and cul-de-sac and traffic diverter options are overkill. Try a test speed table on 1200 Woodbine. Commissioner Chesney agrees with Chair Chalabian.

Mr. Budrick mentioned there is good data for the East Avenue speed table implementation.

Chair Chalabian responded that East Avenue may not be the best case. He believes 1200 Woodbine is a good test case as there still is a speed issue.

Commissioner Gillespie asked where on the block the speed table will be installed. Mr. Budrick responded it would be installed mid-block. Furthermore, installation would not take place until May of next year.

Commissioner Chesney made the following motion:

1. If acceptable to the Fire/EMS Department, the installation of a test speed table on the 1200 block of Woodbine Avenue in lieu of a cul-de-sac or traffic diverter.
2. Traffic data to be collected three months after the installation of the test speed table and results of the traffic study to be brought back to the Transportation Commission for review.
3. Installation of advance signage warning of the NO RIGHT TURN 7AM-9AM, 4PM-6PM, MON-FRI restriction at Woodbine Ave for eastbound traffic.

Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion.

AYES: Bonakdar, Chalabian, Chesney, Gillespie, Stewart.

NAYS: None

The motion passed 5 to 0.

PRESENTATION REGARDING AD HOC PARKING SIGNAGE STANDARDS MANUAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Interim Parking Services Manager Jill Velan gave a presentation on the process to date. In April 2013, the Village came up with the current sign (middle option as shown in the exhibit). These signs were placed on South Boulevard and a public survey was conducted to collect feedback on the new signage.

When voting on the changes, the Ad Hoc Sign Manual Committee was split, but was okay with the recommended changes.

Commissioner Chesney remarked the proposed signs are a great improvement. He has a question about what parking is allowed on Sunday.

Commissioner Gillespie remarked most signage lists permits are required at all other times.

Commissioner Chesney likes the signage and believes there is so much over managed parking. This is a better option.

Chair Chalabian agrees with Commissioner Chesney.

Commissioner Gillespie believes there is a need for permit parking information (dates/times) on the signs for those who have purchased the permits.

Mr. Budrick and Ms. Velan mentioned the Permit Parking section of the sign is advertising notifying people they can purchase certain types of permits for the specified lot.

Chair Chalabian stated the current sign meets its objectives. It is important to keep permit language on the signs. He also mentioned that no one can park 10 hours a day on South Boulevard without risking getting a ticket.

DISCUSSION ONLY OF DOWNTOWN OAK PARK WAY-FINDING SIGNS FOR PARKING GARAGES

Jill Velan explained the background on the wayfinding signs in the Village's downtown parking garages as well as objectives of this project. She asked the Commissioners to think about the goals of this project so that an action plan for this item can be developed.

Chair Chalabian asked if any money is budgeted for this project. Then he mentioned it could be looked at in January or February 2014 Commission meeting.

Ms. Velan provided an update on the discussions about the overnight parking ban issue to the Commissioners. There is no interest in repealing the overnight parking ban. Rather they are looking at increasing the passes from 5 passes to 28 passes or other options for the passes. The Village is automating the overnight parking pass line in 2014. All other passes are to be looked at.

There being no further business, Commissioner Bonakdar motioned and Commissioner Chesney seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectively submitted

Jill Juliano, Transportation Engineer

Juliano, Jill

From: Les McRae [optherapy@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 12:59 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Subject: We live at 1234 Woodbine and would like to give feedback.

Hi Jill,

Thanks for inviting feedback about the No Right Turn Sign on North Ave and Woodbine. I appreciate your efforts in attempting to mitigate our traffic issues.

We live at the last house on the block, literally a ground zero observation point and have observed very little reduction in either the volume or the speed of traffic turning off Woodbine.

It amazes me how fast people tear down Woodbine in the morning. If I were a parent with school age kids, I would be very concerned.

The other observation is that people are using the alley parallel to North Ave in the morning as a work around to the No Right Turn Sign. And they're not even stopping to look for pedestrians half the time when they make that turn heading south on Woodbine. This is dangerous and negates the whole intention of the new sign on North Avenue. There needs to be an stop sign on that alley, even if drivers should know better.

So my recommendations are as follows:

- 1- A stop sign on North Avenue in the morning.
This could slow down traffic turning south onto Woodbine.
It could also provide drivers turning right from Woodbine onto North Ave eastbound, as well as those turning left from Woodbine to North Ave westbound better visibility.
- 2- A stop sign on both sides of the alley. There is only one on the westbound side currently.
- 3- Temporarily station a Police Officer on Woodbine Ave to apprehend speeders, and to monitor alley drivers not stopping before turning south onto Woodbine.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my observations and feedback.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to attend the meeting Monday night due to travel plans. but please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Les McRae
708-767-1234
www.1234therapy.com

Juliano, Jill

From: Julie.B.Denise@jci.com
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:46 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Subject: Fw: 1200 Woodbine Transportation - Spelling Error

Jill:

Attached were another neighbors comments.

Julie B. Denise
GWS - Global Industrial Solutions
2215 York Road, Suite 110
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523
Mobile: 312.504.6187
Fax: 630.990.2300
Email: Julie.B.Denise@jci.com
Website: www.jci.com

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----- Forwarded by Julie B Denise/NA/Johnson_Controls on 11/25/2013 04:44 PM -----

From: Pete D <alaface@hotmail.com>
To: Julie Neighbor Oak Park <julie.b.denise@jci.com>
Date: 11/25/2013 04:17 PM
Subject: RE: 1200 Woodbine Transportation - Spelling Error

Hi Julie,

I think if we had a "No parking" on one of the sides would be good also in addition to a speed table or diverter. I think high speed coupled with no room adds to the danger. Even if it was "No Parking" from certain times.

Speed bump in ally also

Our thoughts,

Pete and Lee

11/26/2013

Juliano, Jill

From: Christine Baumbach [christine.baumbach@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 5:33 PM
To: Juliano, Jill
Cc: Julie Denise
Subject: 1200 block of Woodbine

Dear Ms Juliano,

I regret I cannot attend the meeting tonight and strongly encourage the Village Board and the Traffic Commission to work hard to address the concerns of the residents of the 1200 block of Woodbine. If I am reading your minutes and memorandum correctly the success of the new signs is disappointing. Surely, you have alternatives to suggest. The problems of parking, high car speeds, and heavy traffic have not gone away.

I would like to hear your professional opinion on how to solve this problem. When will the traffic commission be able to make a recommendation?

Thank you for your dedicated analysis of this problem. Let's direct our efforts to solving it now.

Christine Baumbach
1202 N Woodbine
Oak Park

Sent from my iPad