

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, August 21, 2017
Council Chambers – Village Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: Jack Chalabian, Kyle Eichenberger, Roya Basirirad, Michael Stewart, Craig Chesney

Excused: James Thompson, Joel Schoenmeyer

Staff: Bill McKenna, Mike Koperniak, Jill Juliano, Mary Avinger, Sgt. Jacobson, Allison Von Ebers

There was no non-agenda public testimony.

Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Eichenberger. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Draft July 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Eichenberger motioned to approve the draft July 24, 2017, Transportation Commission meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Chesney. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PETITION FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON THE 1200 BLOCKS OF COLUMBIAN AND NORTH EUCLID AVENUES

Chair Chalabian explained how public testimony works to the audience and that the Commission makes recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees.

Transportation Engineer Jill Juliano gave a presentation beginning with the history of the petitions and their explanations. The presentation included aerial views of the petitioning blocks and a picture showing the current traffic calming devices on the 1200 blocks along North Ave. Jill went over detailed speed and volume data for the petitioning and surrounding blocks as well as showed a bypass movement map showing how vehicles moved through the area. Jill also talked about peak hour volume data and enforcement hours which included traffic stop and citation information. Staff recommends the mid-block placement for traffic calming devices on the 1200 block of North Euclid Ave as well as 1200 block of Columbian Ave.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked when police enforcement hours were and Jill responded during rush hours.

Commissioner Basirirad asked about the timing of the US Bank driveway closure and Jill responded that 2017 data was collected after the driveway closure.

A discussion about traffic controls in the area, enforcement on East Ave, the follow up on the May 2017 study, traffic on Oak Park Ave, US Bank driveways egress points, and alley counts turning from Oak Park Ave to North Euclid Ave was had between the Commission and Jill Juliano.

Chair Chalabian asked about Columbian Ave versus East Ave as a collector street and Jill explained the different street classifications – local, collector, and arterial.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated he likes the bypass traffic data and asked how other cities deal with cut through traffic and Jill responded with an example of I-290 exits into Oak Park and spoke about City of Chicago bypass traffic issues.

Commissioner Basirirad asked about the classification of Columbian Ave compared to East Ave and if width of streets has anything to do with classification. Jill responded width does not affect classification.

Chair Chalabian asked if Columbian Ave was officially a collector street and Jill responded that she is currently working with the Plan Department on it.

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Jennifer Cunningham of 1221 Linden Ave is representing the block and spoke about the traffic increase over 30 years. Ms. Cunningham stated with more speeding cars and distracted drivers the block suffers from traffic calming devices on surrounding blocks. She wants the traffic calming toolbox done and a decision made for all blocks because a possible development on the Chicago side of North Ave would bring even more cut through traffic.

Phil Hausken of 1220 Columbian Ave asked if other blocks in the Village have mid-block pinch points and Jill responded no. Mr. Hausken asked about the design and Jill responded that before anything permanent would be installed, temporary devices would be installed and a follow up study done. Jill explained that although she is not a designer it is possible they could be concrete curbs with grass or plant material or just curbs. Mr. Hausken asked how the mid-block point is determined or if it is measured and Jill responded it is not measured and usually about mid-block and depending if there is a fire hydrant but that is something the designer would take into consideration. Mr. Hausken also stated his concerns for bicyclists and how they would be accommodated and Jill responded that there could be a possible cut-through.

Kelly Arquette of 1225 N. Euclid Ave spoke about traffic being a frustration for a long time and that she was waiting on a holistic approach and the traffic calming toolbox to be finished. Ms. Arquette stated traffic studies done for one day is not enough. She

wants staff to look at the timing of traffic signals at Oak Park and North Avenues also but these studies are just a snap shot of the situation. Ms. Arquette also spoke about cars blowing through stop signs, how she's gone to Village Board meetings and submitted her own data to the Village, and she thinks there are other options.

Ben DeBruin of 1228 N. East Ave stated his block is the one that turned in a petition 2-1/2 years ago and he supports traffic calming toolboxes for surrounding blocks. Mr. DeBruin briefly spoke about comparing East Ave and Columbian Ave as collector streets and stated his concern of increased traffic since their petition was turned in.

Julian Foster of 1205 Columbian Ave stated he supports the petitions and this is an area wide problem that needs a holistic approach. Mr. Foster stated speed is an issue and their blocks are the last ones cars can get through besides Oak Park Ave. He is in favor of the pinch points and disagrees that Columbian Ave is a collector street and doesn't think Columbian Ave or East Ave should be collector streets.

Dan Finnegan of 6611 North Ave stated he is a part of the North Avenue Business Association and supports the residents as long as there is access and parking for the North Avenue businesses. Mr. Finnegan spoke about the effectiveness of speed bumps in the alley and how maybe they should be installed on the blocks.

Edward Ferraro of 1209 Linden Ave stated he's lived in the Village for 38 years and spoke about enforcement and questioned the speeds at which enforcement kicks in. Mr. Ferraro also spoke about speeds, asked about bypass movement data, and about the traffic signal at Columbian Ave and North Ave. Bill McKenna responded the Chicago study was to increase left turn bay onto North Ave but will reach out to Alderman's office for more information and will look at small tweaks in the traffic signals for the Oak Park side.

Public testimony was closed out.

Bill McKenna spoke about working with IDOT to check the timing of the Oak Park Ave and North Ave traffic signal to make sure it is working as intended.

Commissioner Chesney explained to Commissioner Basirirad how the Commission tried to deal with this situation by using speed humps in recommendations to the Village Board; and was told no until residents came and spoke at a Board meeting. Commissioner Chesney stated the Commission needs a holistic approach because speeding is an issue and need to keep the streets open.

Commissioner Stewart stated that looking at how to deal with excess speed, speed tables or bumps seem to be the answer but the Village Board of Trustees says no to them. Commissioner Stewart also stated he was glad someone from the North Avenue Business District came and was glad to hear the resident who spoke about bicyclists. Commissioner Stewart supports the use of speed humps and tables which is the standard option to deal with excess speeds.

Commissioner Eichenberger stated he agrees with Commissioner Stewart about the speed tables. He stated no one is saying they don't want pinch points but there needs

to be something done on a larger scale than a choke point. Commissioner Eichenberger stated this should be a “respect our neighborhood” issue.

A discussion occurred about possibly cutting off access from LeMoyné Pkwy; Columbian Ave and East Ave not being collector streets; how enforcement is done; the use of speed humps and traffic circles in the City of Chicago; and if the Commission can recommend speed bumps.

Chair Chalabian asked about the status of the four petitioning streets and Jill Juliano responded with information on all streets and explained the recommendations for all blocks will go to the Village Board of Trustees at the same time. Chair Chalabian stated he believes East Ave and Columbian Ave are residential streets and should be treated as such. He also spoke about volume issues and speed reduction because there is a speeding issue that can be addressed on all four blocks. Chair Chalabian briefly spoke about cut through traffic and stated there are successes with speed humps in alleys because they work, chokers work, mid-block pinch points work because they slow down traffic. He stated he likes speed bumps and we need to figure out how to make them work and thinks this is addressing the problem holistically.

A brief discussion on speed issues, pinch points, driveways, and parking occurred.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to install speed humps on the 1200 blocks of Columbian, N Euclid, Linden, and N East Avenues.

Bill McKenna stated the Commission can't forward a recommendation for the 1200 blocks of N East Ave and Linden Ave because they were not notified and were not present and spoke about speed tables not being allowed.

Chair Chalabian stated polices should be flexible and that the Commission agrees speed bumps/tables work and that he disagrees about what the Village Board wants.

A discussion about using alternate back-up recommendations, trying to use pinch points, and speed humps in recent history, and bringing all four streets at the same time took place.

Commissioner Eichenberger asked about the midblock choker and how it would operate and Jill Juliano responded.

Commissioner Chesney spoke about what the Commission should do in regards to the recommendation.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to add speed bumps or tables on the 1200 blocks of Columbian, N Euclid, Linden, and N East Avenues. Commissioner Basirirad seconded the motion.

Another discussion took place about making recommendations for all four streets at the same time or whether to make two recommendations.

Bill McKenna spoke about the best process to get the petitions approved is to get the traffic calming toolbox approved by the Village Board of Trustees first and then if it's approved notify all four blocks about the next step.

The voice vote was as follows:

Ayes: Chalabian, Stewart, Basirirad

Nays: Eichenberger, Chesney

The motion passed three to two.

Chair Chalabian explained to the audience what happens next and invited the residents to come to the Village Board of Trustees meeting in September.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 2018 WORK PLAN

Chair Chalabian explained to Commissioner Basirirad what the Commission's Work Plan is and what the Commission does to develop one each year.

Mike Koperniak went over the Commission's 2017 Work Plan and their accomplishments as of August. Mike and the Commission went over the draft 2018 Work Plan and decided what the Commission should work on and when it should be accomplished.

The Commission discussed their schedules for future meetings, agendas, and availability, as well as recommendations and what letter that would need to be sent to all four blocks, and the recommendation going to the September Village Board of Trustees meeting.

Commissioner Chesney motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Basirirad.

The voice vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectively submitted

Mary Avinger

Mary Avinger,
Administrative Secretary