

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
November 4, 2013-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS: Edwin Rothrock, Chair; John Ziegelmeier Jr., Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Dan Harden; Cody Howard; Steven Koprince; Tracy Russell; and Chris Storm

Anyone who wishes to be notified when an item will be heard by the City Commission must provide their name and a telephone number or an e-mail address.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, October 7, 2013.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider extending the test period for RESIDENT PARKING ONLY on Edgehill Road for an additional 90 days.

Staff Report:

1. At the 1 April 2013 Traffic Safety Commission meeting, the Commission recommended a six-month test period of RESIDENT PARKING ONLY on a portion of Edgehill Road; the recommendation was approved by the City Commission and signs were installed on May 20.
2. Discussion with adjacent property owners indicates that this is serving the purpose intended.
3. A recent study of parking in the Oread Neighborhood includes a number of recommendations including a resident parking only program; a presentation will be made to the City Commission within the next 90 days and it is anticipated that the Commission will provide direction to staff on how to proceed.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request to establish NO PARKING 7AM-5PM OR 6PM MONDAY-FRIDAY or NO PARKING 7AM-5PM or 6PM SCHOOL DAYS along the south side of Overland Drive from Champion Lane east 1225 feet.

Staff Report:

1. Overland Drive is classified as a "collector" street and is paved approximately 30 feet wide; this is a sufficient width to permit parking along one side of the street and maintain room for two-way traffic.
2. Collector streets are paved wider in order to permit intermittent parking along both sides of the street or consistent parking along one side of the street.

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to construct a TRAFFIC SIGNAL at the intersection of Bob Billings Parkway & Stone Meadows Drive.

Staff Report:

1. The *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) provides Warrants for consideration of a traffic signal.
2. Traffic data was collected for 24 hours at this intersection on September 23-24.
3. A review of Police Department records found only one (1) reported crash during the past three (3) years susceptible to correction by a traffic signal.
4. None of the Warrants in the MUTCD for consideration of a traffic signal are currently met at this intersection.

ITEM NO. 5: Consider construction of TRAFFIC CALMING on Vermont Street between 21st Street & 23rd Street.

Staff Report:

1. The city plans to reconstruct the brick portion of Vermont Street between 21st Street & 22nd Street in 2014.
2. During neighborhood meetings about the reconstruction project, significant discussion occurred concerning the need for traffic calming between 21st Street & 23rd Street.
3. Vermont Street is classified as a "local" street in a residential area with a speed limit of 30mph.
4. Traffic data collected for 24 hours October 1-2 found approximately 210 vehicles per day using the street traveling at an 85th percentile speed of approximately 32.9mph; the peak hour was 2-3pm.
5. A cut-through study was conducted on October 21 with the following results:
 - a. Total traffic, 10; cut-through, 4; 40%
 - b. Northbound, 5; cut-through, 3; 60%
 - c. Southbound, 5; cut-through, 1; 20%

ITEM NO. 6: Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of 16th Street between Barker Avenue & Rhode Island Street.

Staff Report:

1. 16th Street is classified as a "local" street in a residential area and is paved approximately 23 feet wide.
2. Parking is currently permitted along both sides of 16th Street.

ITEM NO. 7: Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on Lawrence Avenue between 27th Street & 31st Street.

Staff Report:

1. Lawrence Avenue is classified as a "collector" in a residential area with a speed limit of 30 mph.
2. Traffic data collected September 19-20 found approximately 1850 vehicles in a 24-hour period and an 85th percentile speed of approximately 31.8mph.
3. In addition, approximately 58% of the frontage along the roadway consists of residential lots with the houses facing Lawrence Avenue.

ITEM NO. 8: Public Comment.

ITEM NO. 9: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 10: Staff Items.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
November 4, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edwin Rothrock, Chair; John Ziegelmeyer, Jr., Vice-Chair;
Ryan Devlin; Dan Harden; Cody Howard; Steven Koprince;
Tracy Russell; and Chris Storm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stuart Boley

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department
David Cronin, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Tom Mulinazzi, Mary Doveton, Betty Alderson, Pat Kelly,
Linda Cottin, Janet Dehnert, Carol Jacobson, John Brinton,
Ben Brown, Linda Tilton, Stephanie Christenot, Brian Farley,
Richard Lungstrum

Chair Edwin Rothrock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, October 7, 2013.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONERDEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STORM,
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING,
OCTOBER 7, 2013; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0-1.**

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider extending the test period for RESIDENT PARKING ONLY on Edgehill Road for an additional 90 days.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

None.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, TO RECOMMEND EXTENDING THE TEST PERIOD FOR RESIDENT PARKING ONLY ON EDGEHILL ROAD FOR 90 DAYS; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING 7AM-5PM OR 6PM MONDAY-FRIDAY OR NO PARKING 7AM-5-PM OR 6PM SCHOOL DAYS along the south side of Overland Drive from Champion Lane east 1225 feet.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Tom Mulinazzi, 4505 Woodland Drive, Board Member, Theater Lawrence: We have a problem, we have a beautiful facility, we don't have enough parking; we have 139 parking spaces in our parking lot, we have 299 seats in our theater, we have a staff of about 20 that work a show, and a cast that ranges from 3-40; we need more parking in the area; we have caused problems with some of our neighbors; so we came up with the idea of permitting parking on the south side of Overland Drive after 5:00 or 6:00 o'clock.

Mary Doveton, 817 April Rain Road, Director, Theater Lawrence: We have used the high school parking lot with the blessing of high school staff; we have even used Dillon's parking lot for an event; we are trying to use every square inch that we can and not infringe on our neighbors parking.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Russell: My concern, if this is approved, is that we sufficient sight distance at the driveway and the approach to the curve heading to Folks Road.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING NO PARKING 7AM-6PM MONDAY-FRIDAY ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF OVERLAND DRIVE FROM CHAMPION LANE AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SIGHT DISTANCE WHERE APPROPRIATE, EAST 1225 FEET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to construct a TRAFFIC SIGNAL at the intersection of Bob Billings Parkway & Stone Meadows Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Betty Alderson, 1400 Lilac Lane: I do not live in this area, but I would like to speak to it, I have several friends that do; there is no sight line either to the east or west if you're coming-off Stone Meadows Drive onto Bob Billings Parkway; it's right at the top of a very steep hill and you don't see a car until they're on top of you; many people avoid that intersection because of the safety concerns; I don't know that this is the answer, but I hope there is something you can come up with to help the situation.

Pat Kelly, 1301 Stone Meadows Drive: I'm here to plead for the neighborhood; our only convenient way to get to the east is on 15th Street and you cannot see to the left or the right with cars coming at 40mph until they are almost on you; it really is incredibly dangerous; our only alternative is to use Harvard, but that is out of the way; I hope you will seriously consider it.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock: I think if we did similar studies at Wagon Wheel or Inverness, they would have significantly higher levels of traffic; my feeling is that this is not the right place to put a stop light.

Commissioner Harden: If it fails to meet the warrants, I would recommend denial.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF BOB BILLINGS PARKWAY & STONE MEADOWS DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

Consider construction of TRAFFIC CALMING on Vermont Street between 21st Street & 23rd Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Linda Cottin, 2244 Vermont Street: When motorists see congestion at 23rd & Massachusetts, they immediately turn down Vermont because it cuts all the way through; Vermont was repaired this summer, except for the brick portion, and I can attest that the speed of traffic has probably tripled since the repairs were made; the only thing that slows them down is when they hit the brick portion; we are in favor of blocking Vermont Street at 23rd and making it an exit only; the cars entering from 23rd are mostly cutting-through; I think that will reduce the amount of speed on the street dramatically; it's crazy how fast they go, especially late at night.

Janet Dehnert, 2130 Vermont Street: I live on the brick portion of Vermont which today is a natural traffic calmer; the neighborhood feels that it is very important to keep the street brick, but we know that traffic will speed up after it is re-built; we would like for the intersection at 23rd to be blocked or a traffic calmer in the 2200 block.

Carol Jacobson, 2203 Vermont Street: I would support what has been said and point-out that there are no sidewalks between 22nd and 23rd and we have a lot of people that walk in the neighborhood; traffic calming would improve safety for people walking in the neighborhood.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock: I'm concerned that this doesn't meet any of the criteria for traffic calming, but I do believe that traffic will increase greatly once the street is improved. Woosley advised that northbound traffic does meet the criteria, 60% of the northbound traffic during the peak hour was cut-through traffic.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO RECOMMEND CONSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC CALMING ON VERMONT STREET BETWEEN 21ST STREET & 23RD STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 6:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of 16th Street between Barker Avenue & Rhode Island Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

John Brinton, 1600 Rhode Island Street: I'm not in favor of the request to establish no parking on one side of the street; if this request is approved traffic volume and speed will increase and make it easier to cut-through our neighborhood; parking can be an effective measure to prevent cut-through traffic and slowing traffic; if you approve this request, you will be removing the only traffic calming device on 16th Street; this neighborhood has lots of children that walk to school so I would be worried about the safety of the kids; people living in adjacent houses along Barker need this parking; while I encourage the city to invest in a safe pedestrian way along this block, I'm not in favor of making it easier for traffic to move at higher speeds; the majority of neighbors I have talked with, believe that parking should be maintained on both sides.

Ben Brown, 1545 Barker Avenue: We can't park both of our cars on our driveway; I think the people that park on 16th Street are adjacent residents and can't park on Barker due to the center islands; I do understand that there is an issue at the intersection, but it's only for a short amount of time; I agree that the parking calms the traffic, people take it much slower through there; rather than no parking on one side of the street, perhaps no parking at the corner would be better; a sidewalk on 16th Street would be a more workable solution.

Linda Tilton, 1621 Rhode Island Street: My concern is driving safety; when I'm on Barker wanting to turn right onto 16th, there are occasionally cars eastbound on 16th and I'm hoping I don't get rear-ended while I'm waiting for them to turn; I have no line of sight with cars parked right up to Barker; my preference would be to have cars parked on one side of the street so that we could have clear flow of traffic; if that is not possible, then at least some at Barker so there would be a line of sight; and also a sidewalk on the north side of the street would make the most sense if one were to be installed.

Stephanie Christenot, 1540 Barker Avenue: I walk through 16th Street 2-3 times a day; I agree that there is an issue here, but I think it is a sidewalk issue; I value the parking there; I don't know what the best answer is.

Brian Farley, 1609 Rhode Island Street: All the people that park there are just the people that live there; if parking is removed from one side then you may need to do something at the intersection with Rhode Island due to the dip; Barker is only a problem when cars are parking right up to the intersection; the fact that there is no sidewalk there and a lot of people are in the street; I don't know what the solution is.

Richard Lungstrum, 1621 Rhode Island Street: The most sensible solution would be to move the parking on 16th Street back a ways from Barker; making a turn off Barker is the problem; this would still leave parking for the people that don't have enough parking on their property and to allow that to naturally calm the traffic.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked if parking could be restricted at the intersection with Barker; Woosley advised that No Parking could be installed within 20 feet of the crosswalk and within 30 feet of the Yield sign.

Commissioner Harden: I would suggest that we table this until the neighborhood can get together decide what they would like to see and come back with a plan.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer requested that the No Parking adjacent to the intersection be installed so the neighborhood can determine if that is sufficient or not.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN TO TABLE THE REQUEST FOR NO PARKING ALONG ONE SIDE OF 16TH STREET BETWEEN BARKER AVENUE & RHODE ISLAND STREET TO GIVE AREA RESIDENTS TIME TO COME TO CONSENSUS; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 7:

Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on Lawrence Avenue between 27th Street & 31st Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: We asked that this come back as a traffic calming request.

Commissioner Rothrock: We thought it fit a lot better with traffic calming than it did with a speed limit reduction.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK TO RECOMMEND TRAFFIC CALMING ON LAWRENCE AVENUE BETWEEN 27TH STREET & 31ST STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO 8:

Public Comment:

Betty Alderson, 1400 Lilac Lane: I would just like to encourage the Commission to support *permit parking* in neighborhoods; there are many neighborhoods in town that would benefit, especially where there are a lot of rentals; and also, I hope to live long enough when we realize that sidewalks are the same to pedestrians as streets are to people that drive cars; they are a community-wide expense and should not have to be paid for by individual property owners.

ITEM NO. 9:

Commission Items:

None.

ITEM NO. 10:

Staff Items:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, December 2, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

David E. Woosley, P.E.

Transportation/Traffic Engineer