

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
November 15, 2021

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service-Safety Director Rob Martin, City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, Police Chief Robert Ring, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Councilman Jim Slough.

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth, Traffic Signal Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for review of the Center Street corridor as it relates to traffic flow, speed, barriers for safety as well as sound, and pedestrian crossings.

Director Martin stated that a group of residents of the Center Street corridor requested a review of the corridor as it relates to traffic flow, speed, barriers for safety as well as sound, and pedestrian crossings. Kalb stated that he has traffic counts from Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Center Street from railroad tracks to Main Street and Tiffin Avenue from Blanchard Street to the split. Currently getting counts for Center Street. Director Martin stated the plan is to get traffic counts and analyze the data. Then discuss what next steps are. Are there things we can do or do we hire an outside source to do a traffic study? Kalb stated that looking at traffic counts from ODOT, on Tiffin Avenue east of Blanchard Street was 18,000 cars per day, on Center Street between the railroad tracks and Main Street was 8,000 cars per day. Kalb is working on ideas, but waiting for traffic counts to come in first. Director Martin stated that the recommendation is to table the request until we are able to get the traffic counts in and analyze the data.

Motion to table request, by Councilman Slough, second by Kalb. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Rich Kramer of City Uniform and Linen to extend the "No Parking" area on Westfield Drive to the west to eliminate visibility issues for motorists exiting the parking lot of City Uniform and Linen.

Chief Eberle said it is a reasonable request. An additional 50' of no parking would be helpful. Chief Ring suggested going 100' in both directions provided not already prohibited east of the driveway. Kalb agrees with 75' from curb cut west and reevaluate, if needed.

Motion to extend No Parking Any Time on Westfield Drive from the curb cut of 1800 Westfield Drive west 75', by Chief Ring, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Request to review the intersection of Broad Avenue and Davis Street and the crosswalk to determine if a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) is needed for the crossing.

There is a crosswalk at the intersection of Broad Avenue and Davis Street. It is not signalized. Kalb stated that there are no real guidelines on where you should use the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB). Average person's speed to walk across Broad Avenue is at least 15 seconds. Doing research through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) they are pushing the pedestrian hybrid beacons which are mast arms with lights on top. They are stating that if you are going to use the RRFB, then you need to use high visibility crosswalk markings. Director Martin stated that in front of the school we need as many safe crossing points as possible. Kalb stated that if you install RRFBs, you will also need to have high visibility crosswalk markings, yield to pedestrian signs and additional street lighting, if needed. Director Martin stated that we would just maintain the one existing crosswalk on the south side of the intersection.

Motion to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and associated requirements of the signage at Broad Avenue and Davis Street, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Request of Downtown Findlay Improvement District (DFID) for installation of safety mirrors at certain locations downtown.

List of locations:

- a. Alleyway from Sandusky to East Crawford by Vivir & JK Juices
- b. Alleyway on LaRiche Property heading onto East Crawford (41.037839703216484, -83.64770733861437)- John LaRiche already approved.
- c. Alleyway onto Sandusky Street off of W. Crawford (41.03712355685654, -83.65124132387736)
- d. Beech Ave North onto E. Sandusky by MPC garage (41.03693586116442, -83.64839981775994)

Stoffel stated that he is unsure that permission has been given by the building owners to place the mirrors on the buildings listed. Chief Eberle inquired if DFID should obtain the consent from building owners to place the mirrors on the buildings. He further inquired if the City is just providing the labor to install the mirrors, nothing else. Director Martin are there any accident prone intersections on this list. Chief Eberle inquired if it is sufficient for the Traffic Commission to say it is support of the idea, but put it back on DFID to get approval of the building owners. Director Martin asked if we have known accidents in these areas that this is a value add. Chief Ring stated that he will check in the system, but none of the locations seems to ring a bell for being accident prone. Chief Eberle stated it is a good idea, but doesn't know that it is a Traffic Commission responsibility. Can they hire someone else to put them up? Kalb stated that we support the DFID in the installation of the mirrors and we will develop a Memorandum of Understanding stating that we will install the mirrors only. The City will not be responsible any further. Stoffel will need to know what specific location, height, angle the mirrors should be installed. Director Martin inquired if it is recommended to put back on DFID to get approval from building owners to attach the mirrors to their buildings? Also need to get proposed actual detailed locations

Motion to table until liability of the City can be determined and DFID provide approval by building owners, actual detailed locations, and maintenance and replacement details, by Kalb, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Request of Pam Cochran, 508 Scott Avenue, to make the intersection of Vincent Street and Hull Avenue a four-way stop.

Stoffel stated that this has come before the Traffic Commission previously. Chief Ring stated that there has only been one accident in the last few years. Kalb reiterated that stop signs are not used for speed control. Chief Ring stated that there was an accident in March 2021. No other accidents have been reported at that intersection since the beginning of 2018. Kalb stated there should be signs No Parking Here to Corner 30 feet back from intersection.

Motion to deny request to make the intersection of Vincent Street and Hull Avenue a four-way stop, and verify if the proper No Parking Here to Corner signs are in place, by Kalb, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on October 18, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk