

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
December 20, 2021

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: John Selick, Ned Seppi, Andrew Giles, Sara Wysocki.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Susan Cheney, 312 Winter Pine Drive, and Whitney Nichols, 440 Winter Pine Drive, for restricted truck traffic on County Road 236 from State Route 568 to State Route 224.

10/18/2021

Susan Cheney stated that she lives in the condos off of County Road 236 between State Route 568 and State Route 224. She has been working from home since mid-March and has noticed the amount of increased truck traffic on County Road 236. She stated that trucks are traveling higher than the speed limit on this road. She is asking that truck traffic be restricted on County Road 236. Director Martin stated that County Road 236 is designated a truck route. Assistant Engineer Rausch stated that the function of the road is doing what it was designed to do. Chief Ring stated that they can do some targeted enforcement regarding the speed of traffic. Stoffel stated that he has data from digital speed limit signs that were put up recently that gather data on number of vehicles and speed of vehicles traveling on the road. Director Martin said that we will review the data and make determinations from that data.

12/20/2021

Stoffel stated that the speed radar operated one week in stealth mode and one week full mode recording speed and traffic counts. The speed was on average 40 MPH or less, there were some outliers of higher speeds. The amount of traffic was the same day over day. Kalb stated that the amount of traffic flow is what is expected. Truck to car traffic is similar.

Motion to deny request for No Trucks on County Road 236, by Kalb, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 4-0.

Residents in the area have noticed the utilization of the multi-use path has increased. There is a concern that there are no crosswalk markings across Lakeview Parkway at the multi-use path. Kalb stated that what is currently installed is what is required per code. He stated that small stop signs can be placed on the multi-use path at Lakeview Parkway. He further stated that pedestrians do have the right-of-way across Lakeview Parkway. Kalb stated that lighting is being looked at with Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative for the full length of the multi-use path on County Road 236.

Motion to install crosswalks across Lakeview Parkway at multi-use path and install small stop signs on the multi-use path at Lakeview Parkway, by Kalb, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

2. 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.

11/15/2021

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.

12/20/2021

Motion to lift item from table, by Councilman Slough, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

Kalb stated that traffic counts on Center Street from Tiffin Ave. to Blanchard Street westbound was 300 vehicles and eastbound was 800 vehicles. Looking at the safety of those travelling eastbound from S. Main St. and speeding over the railroad tracks to go straight to this area of Center St. Kalb drew up a sketch of what it would look like if a 90° turn was put in to enter onto Center Street at Tiffin Avenue rather than being able to drive straight through. There are no barriers available to slow people down in the area of the railroad tracks. The only thing to really do is to have a safety study done that will cost about \$100,000. Chief Ring suggested we try something more simple with signage that there is a curve ahead especially westbound. Kalb stated that traffic counts at Blanchard and Tiffin Avenue has 18,000 vehicles, and the railroad tracks to Main Street has 8000 vehicles. Director Martin asked if we should look at some signage before we make any significant changes. Kalb stated that in order to get any funding from the State to make changes, a safety study would have to be conducted.

Chief Ring stated that changing Center Street to a 90° turn will slow eastbound traffic, but will do nothing for westbound traffic where most of the issues occur with vehicles running into houses. Rayle asked if raising the pavement on the other side of the railroad tracks

to make less of an incline over the tracks would help. Kalb stated that there is a lot of coordination with the railroad company that would need to be done. Kalb further stated that if that comes up in the safety study there is the potential to secure safety funds to pay for it. Director Martin stated that it all comes back around to a safety study. Kalb stated that it is a lot of money, but we collect a lot of data and are then eligible for safety funds.

Signage suggestions: dangerous curve sign with 25 MPH speed designation, chevrons on guardrails or reflectors.

Motion to install dangerous curve signs with railroad and a 25 MPH designation for both directions on either side of the railroad tracks on Center Street and to install chevrons on guardrails on Center Street near railroad tracks, by Chief Ring, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to table Center Street corridor discussion, by Chief Ring, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

3. 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)

11/15/2021

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.

12/20/2021

Motion to lift from table, by Kalb, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 4-0.

Director Martin stated that he discussed with Law Director Rasmussen regarding liability for the City. The City is just installing the mirrors that DFID purchased and if we have written permission so the City would not be liable for any damages. DFID has not yet provided the written permissions from the property owners and detailed locations. No further action needed by Traffic Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for a No Outlet sign on Scarlet Oak Drive at Heatherwood Drive.

Andrew Giles stated that a lot of motorists traveling down Scarlet Oak Drive past Heatherwood Drive not realizing that it is a cul de sac and not a thru street and having to turn around.

Motion to install a No Outlet sign on Scarlet Oak Drive at Heatherwood Drive, by Kalb, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 4-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on January 18, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk