

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
February 22, 2022

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; Jason Rayle, Traffic Signal Department; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Jack Winans.

OLD 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.

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.

2/22/2022

No action taken

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Jack Winans, We Serve, Coffee, located at 114 East Sandusky Street, to revisit the three 15 minute parking spaces on East Sandusky Street.

Director Martin stated a letter was received from Jen Fulton, owner of Jen's Buggy Whip Cakery, in support of the 15 minute parking spaces. Her issue is the placement of the signs. Most folks do not notice the 15 minute parking sign.

Jack Winans stated that We Serve, Coffee has been at 114 East Sandusky Street for nine years. The issue is that We Serve, Coffee opens at 7am, and the other businesses on the street open at 11am. Customers are getting ticketed for parking in the 15 minute parking spaces. This limits number of parking spaces available for customers who will be longer than 15 minutes in his business. Suggests changing the parking restriction of 15 minutes to certain hours-possibly after 11am vs. all day. Jack Bs and Jen's Buggy Whip will be moving soon. There will be no need for the 15 minute parking spaces once these businesses leave.

Director Martin stated that letters have gone out to all businesses on the street to get feedback. At this time, we have not heard back from anyone, except from Jen's Buggy Whip. Would like additional feedback from businesses on the street prior to making a change. Councilman Grant Russel stated in an email that a broader study of downtown parking needs to be done.

City Engineer Kalb stated that he will have one of his employees go door to door to the businesses to get opinions of: 1. Remove 15 minute parking restriction; 2. Keep 15 minute parking restriction and number of 15 minute parking spaces to keep; 3. Have specific times designated for the 15 minute spaces: 7am-11am 2 hour parking, 11am-5pm 15 minute parking.

Motion to table by Director Martin, second by City Engineer Kalb. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Jeff Love for crossing signals at the marked crossing at North Main Street on the north side of the Main Street bridge.

Director Martin stated that the request states that to get to a signalized crossing Mr. Love has to go south to Front Street. Clinton Street is currently a flash at all times. City Engineer Kalb stated that this is not the right time to add crossing signals at this marked crossing due to the ongoing benching project. Plans for the project are not complete at this time. There is a request for proposal process in place now that may change the direction/location of the trail.

Motion to deny request for crossing signals at North Main Street on the north side of the Main Street bridge due to ongoing benching project in this area and the potential relocation of the path and crossing, by Director Martin, second by City Engineer Kalb. 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 March 21, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Minutes approved by Council

ADMINISTRATION ACTION