

Agenda

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 safety discussion, by Chief Ring, second by Kalb. Motion passed 4-0.

2. 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.

2/22/2022

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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent, to remove the Stop sign and the No Parking Any Time sign at Oler's restaurant drive at Western Avenue.

Kathy Launder

From: Matt Stoffel
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Kathy Launder

Kathy – Can I add an item on traffic commission? It would be a stop sign at Olers on Lima Ave and Western Ave. There is an old sign that is faded actually white on the corner of that intersection. Why it was ever there I'm not sure because there is no curb cut into the lot there. It is a city sign with a no parking sign on it but hasn't been changed or even served a purpose for many years. I will get some photos to help clear up my request but if you can add it in I would appreciate it. Thanks Matt

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