

# TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay  
April 18, 2022

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## 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; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Dave Honse, Public Works Supervisor.

### **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

3/21/2022

Kalb stated that a safety study is budgeted this year. The study is scheduled to be performed this fall.

4/18/2022

No action taken.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Becca Jones to make the intersection of Washington Avenue and Fairlawn Place a three-way stop for the safety of pedestrians using the existing crosswalk on the north side of the intersection.

Director Martin stated that he drove this stretch of Washington Avenue several different times and did not notice any heavy pedestrian traffic. There may be heavy pedestrian traffic in the morning and afternoon when school lets out. If this intersection is made a 3-way stop, it would actually increase the potential of high speeds of vehicles due to the extra time needing to stop, would increase the likelihood of motorists speeding up in between stop signs to make up time. Engineer Kalb stated that this intersection does not meet the criteria for a 3-way stop per the Safe Routes to School guide and the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Code. Putting in a 3-way stop would create more of a safety hazard.

Chief Ring stated that the Police Department monitored this area 21 different times over the last few weeks at different times of the day and night. There were four speed citations issued and a stop sign violation citation issued. The highest speed as 41 MPH (in a 25 MPH zone).

Engineer Kalb suggested a different design for the crosswalk, using a piano keys design for higher visibility.

Motion to deny request to make the intersection of Washington Avenue and Fairlawn Place a 3-way stop; and paint the existing crosswalk on the north side of the intersection with a piano keys design for higher visibility, by Engineer Kalb, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Dave Honse, Street Department Supervisor, to make the west side of Linden Avenue between Second Street and Third Street No Parking Any Time.

Honse stated that there are parking issues at 1120 Linden Avenue and 1121 Linden Avenue. There is a curbed and paved area in front of 1120 Linden Avenue for drainage purposes. The resident at 1120 Linden Avenue is requesting that there be No Parking Any Time in front of the house due to issues arising with the neighbor at 1121 Linden Avenue. Honse talked with both neighbors regarding the issue. After this conversation the neighbor at 1121 Linden Avenue stopped parking in the paved area in front of 1120 Linden Avenue. The resident at 1120 Linden Avenue stated that the request for No Parking Any Time on the west side of Linden Avenue between Second Street and Third Street can be withdrawn stating that the parking situation is no longer an issue.

Motion to deny request to make the west side of Linden Avenue between Second Street and Third Street No Parking Any Time, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Ring. 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 April 18, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder  
City Clerk