

# TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay

May 16, 2022

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Jason Rayle, Traffic Signals Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Dave Wisner, Paul Kramer, Larry Cramer, Jack Wasbro, Dennis Hellmann.

### **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.

5/16/2022

No action taken.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Jim Roemer, 430 Scarlet Oak Drive, to reverse decision to install a No Outlet Sign at the intersection of Scarlet Oak Drive and Heatherwood Drive made at the December 20, 2021, meeting, and remove the No Outlet Sign at 430 Scarlet Oak Drive.

Paul Kramer stated that he has lived in this neighborhood for 32 years and there has never been any traffic issue. The entire neighborhood has signed a petition requesting that the No Outlet Sign installed in front of 430 Scarlet Oak Drive be removed due to there being no reason for the sign. Dave Risner stated that the person who requested the sign be installed did not talk to anyone in the neighborhood. There is no need for the sign.

Motion to approve the request to reverse the decision to install a No Outlet Sign at the intersection of Scarlet Oak Drive and Heatherwood Drive and remove the No Outlet Sign from in front of 430 Scarlet Oak Drive, by Director Martin, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Request of Dustin Rice, 1310 Amelia Avenue, to make the intersection of Amelia Avenue and Fourth Street a three-way stop due to excessive speeding in the area.

Rayle stated that traffic counts/speed detection were done in this area previously, however, the data was lost due to technical issues. From what he recalls, there was no excessive speeding except for a couple outliers. Director Martin stated that the purpose of stop signs is not for regulating speed. Chief Ring stated that the Police Department has done extra patrols in the area, but there was nothing to enforce. Director Martin stated that we should get current traffic count/speed data. Public Works will place the equipment out for one week in stealth mode and one week in regular mode to gather speed and traffic count data and then will bring a report back to Traffic Commission.

Motion to table request until current speed and traffic count data are gathered, by Councilman Slough, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Request of Jack and Jeanne Wasbro, 1979 Old Mill Road, to make the remainder of Cherry Street from Factory Street to Main Street one way eastbound due to excessive traffic and excessive speeding.

Jack Wasbro requested solutions to discourage through traffic from traveling down Cherry Street from Tiffin Avenue to N. Main St. Larry Cramer stated that most motorists on Cherry Street are using it as a short cut. Director Martin stated that making Cherry Street a one way is not the answer. Stoffel stated that he can place the speed/traffic count equipment out for one week in stealth mode and one week in regular mode to gather speed and traffic count data and then will bring a report back to Traffic Commission.

Motion to table request until current speed and traffic count data are gathered, by Councilman Slough, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Request of Ronald Weiss, Blanchard House, for a No Semi Trucks sign on Lesa Avenue at North Blanchard Street.

The request was made due to an accident that caused a power outage in the area by a semi truck driver that was turning onto Lesa Avenue and damaged an electric pole. This is an isolated incident. There are No Truck signs at intersections prior to being able to get to the intersection of N. Blanchard St. and Lesa Ave. – N. Main St. and W. Trenton Ave.; Tiffin Ave. and N. Blanchard St.; N. Main St. and Melrose Ave. The semi truck in question would have passed a No Truck sign prior to getting to this intersection.

Motion to deny request for a No Semi Trucks sign on Lesa Avenue at North Blanchard Street, by Chief Ring, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 3-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on June 21, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder  
City Clerk