

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
October 17, 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; Dave Honse, Street Department Supervisor; Jason Rayle, Traffic Signal Supervisor; Don Rasmussen, Law Director; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: John Selick, Lakeview Park Homeowners Association.

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.

3/21/2022

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

7/18/2022

Kalb stated that he went to ODOT Safety Board to request suggestions for this area. The City has already completed the items they have suggested such as signage for the curve and railroad and reducing the speed limit.

8/15/2022

Item remained tabled.

10/17/2022

Motion to lift item from table, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Ring. Motion passed 5-0.

Kalb stated that we have completed all the requests for review of the Center Street corridor relating to traffic flow, speed, and barriers for safety by reducing the speed limit to 25 miles per hour and installing a guardrail and signage related to dangerous curve ahead. The Engineering Department has a project planned to do a traffic study.

Motion to take no further action on this request, by Director Martin, second by Kalb. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Request of Diane Boguski, 1920 Palmer Drive, Findlay, Ohio, to replace the traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway.

7/18/2022

Edith Wannemacher stated that she travels Lake Cascades Parkway to Western Avenue frequently. She has witness numerous near misses at this intersection due to visibility issues while looking south as well as the speed of motorists travelling Western Avenue. Kalb stated that the Lake Cascades sign is potentially in the line of sight and the grassy hill is on the verge of being in the line of sight. Currently the traffic counts do not warrant a traffic signal at this intersection. Kalb stated he can have a traffic study performed by City staff of this area. After the study is complete, a decision can be made regarding how to address the issues at this intersection.

Motion to deny request to replace the traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway, by Kalb, second by Ring. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to have City of Findlay Engineering Department perform a traffic study of the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway and bring results back to Traffic Commission to review, by Kalb, second by Martin. Motion passed 4-0.

8/15/2022

Item remained tabled

10/17/2022

Motion to lift item from table, by Kalb, second by Director Martin. Motion passed 5-0.

Kalb stated that the Engineering Department performed a traffic study of the intersection. Looking at traffic count reports from 2016 to 2022, counts only increased by 2%. Western Avenue is still considered a thoroughfare. The traffic counts do not warrant a traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway. If a three-way stop was implemented at this intersection, it would create a lot of stacking on Western Avenue and the right turn lane would have to be eliminated. Need to keep traffic on the major road flowing and the minor road needs to stop. If this area develops, we will take an updated traffic count and determine if action is needed at the at time. Director Martin stated that more traffic turns right onto Western Avenue than turns left. Kalb stated that the line of sight at the intersection is sufficient for a safe turn. Not further action is needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Lakeview Parkway Homeowners Association for a pedestrian controlled signal at the crosswalk across County Road 236 at Lakeview Parkway and Foxtail Drive.

John Selick, President of the Lakeview Park Homeowners Association, stated that there have been near misses of children getting struck while crossing County Road 236 from Foxtail Drive to Lakeview Parkway. Looking for anything to enhance the safety of the crosswalk. Kalb stated that what is posted is what the City is required by law to have in place. High visibility signage and ladder crossing parking is what is currently in place. The traffic counts collected over the past several years shows counts from 6600 to 7400 cars per day. Whatever steps we take to improve the crossing at Lakeview Parkway and Foxtail, will need to be implemented at Heatherwood Drive as well. Chief Eberle stated that he is in favor of the concept of a pedestrian controlled signal, however, the City receives requests like this frequently and what we decide to do for one request, we have to do for all requests. Chief Eberle and Director Martin stated that they are looking for a way to make this safety improvement, but need to keep consistent. Kalb stated that we can look at installing solar blinking lights around the pedestrian crossing sign to draw attention to the crosswalk.

Motion to deny request for a pedestrian controlled signal at the crosswalk across County Road 236 at Lakeview Parkway and Foxtail Drive; and instead install a solar blinking light around the Pedestrian Crossing sign on County Road 236 at the Foxtail Drive/Lakeview Parkway intersection and at the Heatherwood Drive intersection, by Chief Eberle, second by 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 November 21, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk