

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay

May 21, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Service Director/Acting City Engineer Brian Thomas, Police Chief John Dunbar, Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Councilman Jim Slough.

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom De Muth and Jason Rayle, Traffic Lights; Zach Morris, Engineering.

GUESTS PRESENT: Matthew Fisk, Christopher Strzempka, Cathy Strzempka.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request of Tom DeMuth, City of Findlay Traffic Signal Supervisor, to review the crosswalk signalization across Lima Avenue at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company leading from their corporate offices to their parking lot due to ailing equipment needing repaired or replaced.

4/16/2018

DeMuth stated that the traffic signal equipment at Cooper Tire was installed in 1993. The hardware is wearing out and it is outdated equipment. In lieu of spending money to update the light, DeMuth suggested that it be converted to a regular crosswalk like West Main Cross Street. Schmelzer stated that an RFB similar to West Main Cross Street is no longer recognized under the Uniform Traffic Code. DeMuth stated that if it is not a federal or state highway, should be able to use the RFB. Not a traffic control device just an enhancement. Option A is to just stripe a sign the crosswalk. Option B is to install a HAWK device or overhead light. Option C is to replace the existing. Schmelzer stated the cost of this type of device is born by the entity that needs it. Cooper Tire needs to pay for a HAWK system or traffic signal or we will put back to a crosswalk. DeMuth stated that they will not be happy with a HAWK system. Schmelzer stated that he will talk with Cooper Tire about cost of traffic signal after DeMuth gets actual costs.

05/21/2018

No new information.

2. Request of Michael Chiarelli, Kan Du Group located at 17728 County Road 99, Findlay, for a traffic signal facing north at Speedway Drive to allow motorists to safely be able to turn left (east) from their facility as well as Flashover Sports.

4/16/2018

Chiarelli stated that the Kan Du Group is the former Blanchard Valley Industries and moved to a County Road 99 location. It serves adults with disabilities. There will be 45-50 adults on location at a time. There is a concern of the safety of turning left out of the drive onto CR 99. A traffic signal would allow a safer turn. The entrance to the facility will be moved to line up with the existing traffic signal.

Schmelzer stated that usually the organization requesting an additional traffic signal would be responsible for the cost to purchase and install the signal. There may be grants or government funds available to cover the cost. Having a traffic signal there may spark additional development. Cost to install a new signal would be approximately \$15,000 if have to purchase all equipment. Schmelzer stated that if the owner moves the drive the City would pay for the signal. Chiarelli stated that the owner is aware that they would have to move the entrance.

Motion to table request pending further discussion regarding combining the driveways, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

05/21/2018

No new information.

3. Review of the intersection of Osborn Avenue and East Main Cross Street for a safer intersection.

04/16/2018

Thomas stated that he had traffic counts taken and aerial footage taken of this intersection. Traffic count does not warrant a traffic signal or four way stop. Eastbound and westbound traffic have to move past stop bars to see into intersection to safely

pass. Schmelzer stated that the issue is not going away. Should put up a four way stop at this intersection. DeMuth stated that we should install a solar operated flashing stop sign.

Motion to make the intersection of Osborn Avenue and East Main Cross Street a four way stop with "Stop Ahead" signs for southbound traffic and recommend a schematic be put together for examination by the Traffic Commission, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

5/21/2018

Motion to remove from table, by Councilman Slough, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

The Commission reviewed the exhibit of the potential location of stop signs and stop bars provided by Director Thomas. Chief Dunbar thinks the stop signs will help. Chief Eberle asked about the flashing stop signs. Demuth stated that the City doesn't currently have any flashing stop signs. Chief Eberle asked about stop ahead signs. Director Thomas stated that if we move forward, stop ahead signs will definitely be needed for northbound and southbound and would be placed at the appropriate distance from the intersection. The goal of the exhibit is to show possible locations of stop signs and stop bars. Chief Eberle asked about a double stop sign for the southbound traffic since it will be new to the drivers and even with the stop ahead, they will not be able to see it right away due to the elevation of the road and bridge.

Motion to install the stop signs and stop head signs on Osborn Avenue at the intersection of East Main Cross Street as indicated in the exhibit, by Councilman Slough, second Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Matthew Frisk, 521 Edith Avenue, to make Bolton one way northbound from Edith to Rector Avenue.

Mr. Fisk explained his request. Discussion on if the change is made, should it start at Lester, Edith, or Prentiss? Chief Eberle thinks Prentiss would be a good starting point if the change is made. There are concerns about other property owners with drives onto this section of Bolton. Mr. Fisk indicated that he talked with his neighbors and they were not concerned about the change but are curious about the outcome. Councilman Slough has concerns about safety. Chief Eberle is in favor but would like other input. Director Thomas asked Mr. Fisk if he would be willing to talk to the neighbors along Bolton and try to get them to sign a petition or write letters of support for the change, he indicated yes.

Motion to table so that Mr. Fisk can try to get support from the property owners along Bolton from Edith to Prentiss for the change by Director Thomas, second by Councilman Slough. Motion Passed 4-0.

2. Request of Tim Karcher, 230 Oakland Avenue, to place two 25 MPH signs on Oakland Avenue; one at Main Street heading east and one at Park Street heading west.

This is similar to other requests that are received for residential streets. Discussion ensued about putting temporary speed sign (one that shows how fast the drivers are going). City does not have one but might be able to borrow the one from the state. Motion to deny request since it is a residential street and not a collector or thoroughfare, residential streets are 25 unless posted otherwise, and to keep with past practice, by Director Thomas, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

City was able to borrow speed sign from the State and it was supposed to be along the street the week of June 4th. Did not have a chance to follow up with Lt. Doe to make sure that it actually happened.

3. Request of Chris Strzempka, 203 East Lima Street, to make the intersection of East Lima Street and Beech Street a three-way stop.

Director Thomas state that stop signs cannot be used to control speed. Discussion ensued about traffic counts and requirements for stop signs.

Motion to get traffic counts at both Lima/Beech and Lima/East so that Engineering can compare the traffic volumes versus requirements for stop signs, by Councilman Slough, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request of Brian Thomas, Service Director/Acting City Engineer, to make Blanchard Street two lanes, one lane in each direction with a continuous left turn lane, and two bike lanes, one in each direction.

Director Thomas explained the request. He had talked with Director Schmelzer who had a concern with the extra cost and the fact that as traffic volumes increase in the future, there may come a time when the need will arise to have to go back to the 4 lane configuration. The City can apply for a grant from the State's safety program to offset the additional cost of the project. The safety program prefers if there are other funding sources involved in the project, so while it would be possible to wait and try the proposal at a later date, the project might not get scored the same since it would be the only funding source involved. Thomas stated that the transition happening between Center Street and Clinton Court and the revised section would extend south to Sixth Street. Director Thomas pointed out that this would also give the City the option of adding left turn lanes (on Blanchard Street) at the intersections that do not have them without needing additional right of way. Demuth stated that there would be little traffic signal work that would be needed to make the modification. Director Rasmussen asked if a right turn lane could still be added for northbound traffic on Blanchard to turn right onto Sandusky. Director Thomas replied yes. Director Thomas stated that in the three years between 2014 and 2016, there were 93 crashes on Blanchard Street between Center Street and Sixth Street. While there is no guarantee that the proposal will reduce the number of crashes by adding a dedicated left turn lane and bicycle lanes, there will be the potential to reduce the number of crashes. Chief Eberle stated that since the proposal will just resurface and restripe the pavement it seems to be a low risk opportunity to try to improve the safety of the corridor and if it does not appear to be working, the pavement could be restriped back to the existing conditions.

Motion to proceed with the proposed modification of lane width on Blanchard Street from Center Street to Sixth Street in an attempt to increase the safety along the corridor by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on June 18, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk