

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
September 17, 2018

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Stoffel, Public Works Superintendent; Tom DeMuth Traffic Signal Supervisor; Kathy Launder, City Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Justin Stutzman.

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 The hardware is wearing out and it is outdated equipment.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.

08/20/2018

Schmelzer forwarded to Cooper and has not heard back.

9/17/2018

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.

8/20/2018

Schmelzer met with property owner. Doubt we will do anything there very soon. Keep on the agenda.

9/17/2018

No new information

3. Request of Councilman John Harrington to review the traffic pattern around Jefferson School.

5/15/2017

Acting Chief Dunbar stated that he has assigned the Special Assignment Unit to review the traffic pattern around Jefferson School. They are to have their report completed by May 24, 2017, to bring back to Traffic Commission. It is suggested to reach out to Dennis McPherson to attend the next meeting when it is discussed.
Motion to table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 5-0.

06/19/2017

Chief Dunbar stated that Sgt. Brian Dill with the Special Assignment Unit reviewed the area for best options for traffic pattern around Jefferson School. He spoke with school personnel as well as the residents in the area. The following are several proposals for consideration:

- A. Remove the No Parking restriction on Seventh Street between S. Main St. and Maple Ave. to allow for additional stacking.
- B. Make Washington Ave. between Sixth St. and Seventh St. No Parking during school hours.
- C. Make Maple Avenue between Seventh Street and Fairlawn Place one-way going southbound allowing two lanes of stacking.
- D. Make Fairlawn Place from Maple Ave. to Washington Ave. No Parking during school hours.
- E. Maple Avenue between Fairlawn Place and Pearl Street has already been made No Parking Any Time on both sides of the street.

Schmelzer requested that Chief Dunbar develop a map with the recommendations and forward to the Superintendent of Findlay City Schools for review. The net benefit of these recommendations is to get cars off of Sixth Street and increase bus maneuverability on Fairlawn Avenue.

Motion to have the Engineering Department create an exhibit to reflect proposals A, B, C, and D from Special Assignment Unit, and forward to Ed Kurt, Superintendent of Findlay City Schools, and Jefferson School Principal for review, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Monday. Motion passed 5-0.

08/20/2017

Motion to lift item from table, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

Director Schmelzer reported that Findlay City Schools Superintendent Ed Kurt stated that it is very difficult to make any changes to traffic patterns around schools during the school year. Superintendent Kurt stated that they would continue to monitor the traffic around the school throughout the year and, if necessary, make a change at the beginning of the summer to get resident acclimated and then parents. The Principal of Jefferson School stated that the double stacking on the one way of Maple Avenue is not a safe idea. Will look at periodically throughout school year with school staff and take notes.

Motion to table item and evaluate traffic patterns throughout the school year, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

Schmelzer stated that a map was put together based on Police Department recommendation to the school. Have not heard back from Superintendent Ed Kurt or Dennis McPherson.

Motion to lift off table, by Schmelzer, second by Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussed plan.

- A. Remove parking restriction on school days south side of Seventh Street east of the first north/south alley
- B. Make a no parking zone on Washington Ave. between Sixth St. and Seventh St.
- C. Change Maple Ave. from Seventh to Fairlawn to a one way in southbound direction to create a row of parking on the west side and bypass lane on the east side
- D. No parking on Fairlawn

Modify map per discussions for next meeting. Will then give to Findlay City Schools to have them review recommendations.

Motion to table, by Schmelzer, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

9/17/2018

Thomas stated that the Engineering Department is in the process of modifying the map.

4. Request of Jeremy Kalb, Engineering Department, to change the first alley east of Main Street from E. Main Cross St. to E. Crawford St. to one way southbound.

8/20/2018

The request to change the direction of the alley to one way south is so that access to the parking garage can be maintained when East Crawford Street is closed for events. This request was made by a business owner. Chief Eberle suggested that we contact the other business owners in the area to get their opinion.

Motion to table, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

9/17/2018

No new information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to consider removing traffic signal at Lake Cascades and Western Avenue.

This item has been briefly discussed before. The traffic signal at the intersection of Western Avenue and Lake Cascades Parkway is failing. The cabinet and controller is also failing. Thomas stated that traffic counts did not meet warrant for traffic signal to remain. Engineering Department recommends to remove traffic signal and install stop signs on Lake Cascades Parkway. Western Avenue traffic will not stop. There are currently no sight issues. This may change if the southwest corner is developed. Chief Dunbar stated some concerns with the curve from Lake Cascades Parkway onto Western Avenue remaining a Yield. He proposes to eliminate the curve. Another suggestion was to replace the Yield with a Stop Sign. It is proposed to have Western Avenue as a thru street, have traffic on Lake Cascades Parkway stop at Western Avenue, keep yield sign at curve. Flash for two weeks on yellow for Western Avenue, red for Lake Cascades Parkway, then bag the traffic signals. If there are no concerns after this period, then come back for official determination of removing traffic signals. Motion to table and bring back to the Traffic Commission after review of the curved yield area, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Request of Chanda West, 2211 Washington Avenue, to make the intersection of Washington Avenue and East Edgar Street a four way stop.

The concern is that motorists are speeding down East Edgar Street. There was a serious vehicle accident at this intersection recently. There are several families with small children in the area as well.

Motion to make the intersection of Washington Avenue and East Edgar Street a four way stop, by Councilman Slough, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Request of Councilwoman Holly Frische to look at the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Deer Ridge Drive and East Melrose Avenue.

Thomas stated that the last traffic count done was in 2015. The average daily total did not meet the warrant for a traffic signal. With the new apartments going in on the north side of Melrose Avenue, there will be an increase in traffic. Deer Ridge is a private drive. A new signal will cost approximately \$150,000. Recommend get current traffic counts after the apartments are built and occupied. Motion to table until traffic counts are obtained, by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Request of Councilwoman Holly Frische to look at the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Fishlock Avenue and East Sandusky Street (due to traffic going to/from downtown for work, school and the fair).

Thomas stated that this intersection has been reviewed in the past. Will need to get current traffic counts. Being a state route, the City will have to turn in an application to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for installation of a traffic signal. Motion to have Engineering Department take traffic counts for East Sandusky Street to determine if it warrants a traffic signal, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Request of Councilwoman Holly Frische to look at the need for a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of 6th Street and Washington Avenue (due to the amount of joggers and kids walking to Donnell, Jefferson and Chamberlin).

Thomas stated that he is not sure what the actual request is. There is already a crosswalk

marked with signage across Sixth Street at Washington Avenue. MUTCD does not recommend flashing crosswalk signals. Motion to table by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Justin Stutzman address the Traffic Commission with a concern of its recent decision to make Bolton Street one way from Edith to Prentiss. He is requesting that it be changed to be one way from Edith to Lester. Mr. Stutzman lives on Lester and uses Bolton to travel to and from his residence. Having Bolton as one way from Edith to Prentiss makes it difficult on him and others living on Lester in their normal travels. The Traffic Commission will review this at its next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Traffic Commission will be held on October 15, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk

WORK ORDERS

Minutes approved by Council July 17, 2018

Motion to make Bolton one-way northbound from Edith Avenue to Rector Avenue, by Councilman Slough, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to make McLane Drive “No Parking Any Time” on both sides of the road, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion to make Hamlet Drive “No Parking Any Time” on one side of the street (the side with fire hydrants) immediately and monitor for truck parking on Hamlet Drive in the future to prevent situation of stacking, by Director Schmelzer, second by Director Thomas.

Amend the motion to add that Hamlet Drive through the curve be designated “No Parking Any Time,” by Chief Eberle, second by Councilman Slough.

Amended motion passed 4-0.

ADMINISTRATION ACTION

ACTION.