

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

City of Findlay
November 18, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ann Laiho, Lakeview Park Property Owners Association; Jim Cline and Colton Schulte, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Request to review pedestrian safety downtown Findlay.

6/17/2019

Councilman Grant Russel stated that a resident that was struck in a crosswalk recently downtown approached him with ideas to make downtown streets safer for pedestrians. A suggestion is to make all intersections in Downtown Findlay "No Turn on Red." Also, installing left turn lights on all traffic lights Downtown. DeMuth stated that plans are already in place for traffic light upgrades which will include left turn lights on all intersections that have left turn lanes in Downtown. Director Schmelzer stated that we can look at the Capital Plan, and in the interest of pedestrian safety downtown, we can move the request for signal upgrades up on the list to have them completed sooner.

Discussion regarding "No Turn on Red" during certain hours. Have not done research on other downtowns or how this affect the Uniform Traffic code. Used to be No Turn on Red prior to 2003. Director Schmelzer stated that it makes sense for special hours. May back up traffic. What do we want to do in the interest of pedestrian safety. See what introduction to no turn on red would make on stacking. Maybe not on Main Cross and Sandusky intersections, but all other intersections in downtown have the "No Turn On Red" designation. Have DGL take a look at. Demuth stated that if you can't see to turn right on red without entering into the crosswalk to see to turn, then it should be "No Turn On Red." Director Schmelzer stated this should be part of the criteria along with stacking. Director Schmelzer requested the Engineering Department to do a study on the intersections with the criteria and come back with a list of intersections and a map to determine where we want to introduce the No Turn On Red. If we don't have anything conclusive, then look at engaging DGL. Director Thomas will contact DGL for a cost to do the study, if needed.

Motion to review the Capital Plan as it relates to the traffic signal upgrades in Downtown to determine if those projects can be moved up in the schedule; have Engineering Department study each Main Street intersection in the Downtown using the two criteria for right turn on red: 1. Do you have to encroach into the crosswalk to make a decision as to whether or not it safe to move forward in your vehicle, and 2. Stacking, then bring it back for further discussion, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 4-0.

7/15/2019

Remains tabled.

8/19/2019

Motion to lift from table by Director Thomas, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 5-0.

Director Thomas stated that they looked at the intersections downtown, looked at which intersections if you stop at the stop bar you can see and which ones you can't when you turn right. Director Thomas will be checking on pricing with DGL to do a model regarding stacking with data relative to traffic counts that we collected for the Downtown project, provide level of service projections for those intersections if those movements are restricted.

Motion to table request, by Director Schmelzer, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

2. Request of John DePuy, 3430 Crosshill Drive, to make the west side of Crosshill Drive from Hillshafer Drive north to dead end of Crosshill Drive.

7/15/2019

Concerns about vehicles parking in front of his mailbox as well as concerns about emergency vehicles being able to access his home.

Motion to table request until signatures of property owners approving the change can be obtained, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar, Motion passed 3-0.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

3. Request of Cathy Weygandt, 204 Greenlawn Avenue, for a traffic signal at Sixth Street and Washington Avenue due to concerns of pedestrian and cyclist trying to cross over Sixth Street.

8/19/2019

Lee Weygandt stated that it is difficult and dangerous to cross Sixth Street at Washington Avenue. Suggests installing a signal similar to the one at South Main Street and Baldwin Street, a traffic tripped light and a button to push for pedestrians. Some children cross there to get to Jefferson School. Would like a study done. Director Thomas stated that there are crosswalks there but no signal. Schmelzer wants to differentiate between how long you have to wait to cross a busy road and something we would put in place to actuate to stop traffic. Would take a look at adding a midblock crossing with signalization if a significant number of students cross there to get to Jefferson School. Would like to see what the changes look like around Jefferson School before making a decision. Will be doing additional monitoring in the area due to changes we are making around Jefferson School and will monitor this area as well.

Motion to table request pending additional investigation and analysis of the proposed changes of traffic patterns around Jefferson School, by Director Schmelzer, second by Councilman Slough. Motion passed 5-0.

9/16/2019

Remains tabled.

10/21/2019

Director Schmelzer requested Chief Dunbar to place the camera trailer near the intersection of Washington Avenue and Sixth Street to monitor the number of cars and pedestrians at this intersection, and bring back results.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

4. Request of Sonja Huffman, Center Street Block Watch, to make the intersection of Center Street and Carnahan Street a four-way stop.

9/16/2019

Ms. Huffman stated that Findlay is growing and more people are going to Riverside Park. There are also more activities going on at Riverside Park than there used to be. Ms. Huffman stated that members of the block watch approve the intersection Center Street and Carnahan Street becoming a four-way stop. Director Thomas stated that the City does not install stop signs for speed control. Traffic warrants need to meet requirements for an intersection to become a four-way stop. Motion to obtain traffic counts for Center Street and bring back to Traffic Commission for consideration of a four-way stop at Center Street and Carnahan Street, by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

10/21/2019

Director Thomas stated that there is some merit to activity of summer vs. non summer traffic. Traffic counts will be taken as soon as able to do so.

11/18/2019

Remains tabled.

5. Request of Chad Richards, to add a turn lane at Flowers Avenue at 18th Street.

9/16/2019

Adding a left turn lane on Flowers Avenue at 18th Street would not make it safer. Adding a stop sign at that intersection would make it safer than adding a turn lane. Chief Dunbar stated that he can place an unmarked vehicle in the area to monitor traffic patterns during drop off and pick up of students.

Motion to table request to look at the traffic patterns in the area to determine a solution, by Director Thomas, second by Chief Eberle. Motion passed 3-0.

10/21/2019

Chief Dunbar stated that he has a report from three days of surveillance. The recommendation is for a stop sign on Flowers at 18th Street. A "yield" sign or "cross traffic does not stop" sign are other suggestions. Since the construction of Glenwood School this area has been cause for concern.

11/18/2019

Motion to lift item from table by Chief Dunbar, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

Chief Dunbar reiterated his report from October's meeting.

Motion to add a stop sign on Flowers Avenue at 18th Street by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request of Lakeview Park Property Owners Association for stop signs at the intersection of Reimund Ct. and Lakebrook Drive.

Motion to approve request for a stop sign on Reimund Court at Lakebrook Drive, by Chief Eberle, second by Director Thomas. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Request of Lakeview Park Property Owners Association for stop signs at the intersection of East Woodland Trail and South Woodland Trail.

Motion to approve request for a stop sign on East Woodland Trail at South Woodland Trail by Director Thomas, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Request of Lakeview Park Property Owners Association to move the current no outlet sign from Brookview Trail, east of Clearbrook Circle, and place the no outlet sign on Brookview Trail just east of the intersection of Brookfield Drive.

Motion to approve request to move "No Outlet" sign from Brookview Trail, east of Clearbrook Circle, and place the no outlet sign on Brookview Trail just east of the intersection of Brookfield Drive by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Request of City Engineering Department to make Concord Court and Vincent Street a four way stop due to Bishop Lane extending into Concord Court.

Motion to approve request to make Concord Court and Vincent Street a four way stop by Chief Eberle, second by Chief Dunbar. Motion passed 3-0.

5. General discussion on the condition of the traffic signals on Lima Avenue at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company for plans to repair or alternate replacement.

DeMuth stated that Cooper Tire is looking for answers about the crosswalks as far as safety is concerned. Jim Cline stated that there have been multiple near misses in the headquarters' crosswalk due to motorists running the red light. He also stated that there are speed issues along this area as well. Issue may be that the signals have the appearance of being too high. DeMuth stated that we could put signals on the upright section of the pole and see if that helps. This would be in addition to the signals in the current location. DeMuth has spare signals if would like to try temporarily placing a signal on the upright section of the pole. Originally Cooper Tire requested and paid to have signals put in. If we need to upgrade Cooper Tire will be responsible to pay for them. Director Thomas stated that we should try installing spare signal on the pole. Also get an estimate for replacement of both of the signals at Cooper Tire (at headquarters entrance and factory entrance).

Motion for Tom DeMuth to install a temporary traffic signal on the upright section of the pole of the traffic signal at the Cooper Tire headquarters entrance for both directions and obtain estimates for replacement of both of the signals at Cooper Tire (at headquarters entrance and factory entrance) by Director Thomas, second by Eberle. 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 December 16, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk