

**Minutes from the Regular
Advisory Traffic and Safety Board Meeting
November 7, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Colling called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. After roll call, Chairperson Colling stated that a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Ernest Colling Jr.
Carl Moore
Thomas Pozolo
Thomas Neveau

Absent:

Larry Dropiewski
Paul G. Shumejko
Ken Krajewski
Scott Hunter

Non-voting members present:

Paul Davis, P.E., City Engineer/Deputy DPS Director
Sheryl McIsaac, Recording Secretary
Jim Kubicina, City Council Representative (Arrived at 7:15 pm)
Keith Depp, Staff Engineer
Sgt. Jason Dalbec, Oakland County Sheriff's Office
Paul Hartzell, Transportation Consultant Rochester Community Schools

Others present:

Daniel Reich, 675 Ten Point Drive
Brent Carr, 548 Ten Point Drive
Mike Vollmaier, 843 Stag Ridge Drive
Fauzi Farah, 744 Ten Point Drive
John Wilson, 1474 Antler Court
Heidi Morris, 900 Stag Ridge Drive
Steven Carlson, 1421 Mill Race

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2017-0447 Draft minutes from the June 13, 2017 regular meeting

Chairperson Colling noted that the Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 13, 2017 would be the first agenda item. He asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve or amend them. A motion to approve them, as presented, was made by Mr. Moore, and seconded by Mr. Pozolo.

MOTION by Moore
SECOND by Pozolo

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Dropiewski, Neveau, Hunter

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2017-0448 Request for Approval of Traffic Control Order TM-36.17-NO TURN ON RED from northbound Old Perch Road onto Walton Boulevard at their intersection between the hours of 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, School Days Only.

Mr. Davis stated that if the board remembers, at the last meeting they had in June, there was some discussion about changing some of the “turn on red” signs at John R and Auburn Road. Mr. Davis stated that the opinion was that starting at 7:00 AM was not early enough and it was not providing protection for the students because there were a number of students that walked earlier than 7:00 AM., so the sign starting times were changed at that location. Before the board tonight is another location, but it is dealing with the same issue and request, changing the starting time from 7:00 AM to 6:30 AM. Old Perch is a City road and Walton Boulevard is under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County. The request is to revise the turning restrictions for Old Perch northbound to eastbound Walton Blvd. The turning restrictions currently are 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Mr. Paul Hartzell is here at the meeting to address some of the concerns regarding school children crossing busy intersections, specifically at the intersection of Old Perch and Walton Boulevard. Mr. Hartzell stated that the request is not only for northbound Old Perch to Walton Blvd. but also eastbound Walton Blvd. to southbound Old Perch. Mr. Davis stated that the sign on eastbound Walton Blvd.

would be the Road Commission's sign. Mr. Hartzell stated that there were some safety concerns that was brought to his attention in September from a citizen regarding the students crossing at this location. Mr. Hartzell stated he spent some time there monitoring the pedestrian traffic and did note that the times that the students do cross at this location start prior to the 7:00 AM posting. For this reason, he has requested the change. The start time for school is 7:25 AM and dismissal is at 2:22 PM.

Mr. Colling asked if there was anyone present that wanted to comment on this particular item. Hearing none, he closed it for public comment and opened it up to the Board. Mr. Colling stated that for consistency purposes, he would like all the turning movement signs located by schools to be the same.

Mr. Moore asked what kind of count of pedestrian students were crossing there at Walton Blvd.? Mr. Hartzell stated that the student pedestrian traffic was a little heavier in the afternoon than in the morning, probably about 15 students in the morning and 20 to 25 in the afternoon. Mr. Moore asked what constitutes a crossing guard being assigned to this area? Mr. Moore stated that they are talking safety of children here and he would think this area would warrant one. Mr. Colling stated that they were talking about Middle and High School children and generally speaking, the crossing guards are mainly at Elementary Schools. Mr. Colling stated that if it were elementary school children, he would agree to having a crossing guard, but it is middle school children and there is a crossing guard right at the middle school.

Everyone agreed that keeping the times consistent at all the schools for these signs was essential. Mr. Pozolo asked about keeping the sign with the same times and verified that it was those that were related to the schools. Mr. Davis stated that if we are going to be consistent, they all should be 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Mr. Davis also stated that these times only relate to City roads. Those belonging to the County or State could be different and we need to follow up with the State and Road Commission to make sure they post the same times also. Mr. Davis will talk to the Road Commission and ask them to change their sign to reflect the same times as ours.

Mr. Colling stated that as part of this approval, that staff ask the Road Commission to change their times on the sign on Walton Boulevard to reflect the same times as the City's.

Mr. Neveau made a motion to adopt TCO TM-36.1 with a NO TURN ON RED from northbound Old Perch Road onto Walton Boulevard at their intersection with the modification of hours to between the hours of 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM and 4:00 PM, School Days Only, rescind any previous TCO's for this intersection and that the ATSB recommend that City Council approve this TCO until rescinded or superseded. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pozolo.

**MOTION by Neveau
SECOND by Pozolo**

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: Dropiewski, Neveau, Hunter

MOTION CARRIED

2017-0449 Request to Rescind TCO PK-14.3 and for Approval of replacement Traffic Control Order PK-111.1, PK-111.2 and PK-11.3; Ten Point Drive and Stag Ridge Road, Section #16.

A Traffic Study was recently performed on Ten Point Drive and Stag Ridge Road in section 16. As a result of said investigation, it was determined that stopping, standing or parking on said streets is dangerous to those using the streets and would unduly interfere with the free movement of traffic and hereby directed that there be three traffic control orders recommended.

- PK-111.1 No Parking from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, School Days Only, within the east side of the right-of-way on Ten Point Drive, between signs to be placed at the University Hills Elementary School crosswalk and at 200' intervals extending 350' north and south of the crosswalk.
- PK-111.2 No Parking from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, School Days Only, within the north side of the right-of-way on Stag Ridge Drive between signs to be placed at the intersection with Ten Point Drive and 350' east of the intersection.
- PK-111.3 No Parking on the west side of Ten Point Drive between signs to be placed on 15'-20' from the center of the University Hills Elementary School crosswalk.

Mr. Davis stated that a Traffic Information Survey was filled out by one of the residents in this area. This study was conducted at the request of a member of the University Hills Subdivision Homeowner's Association. The request was made due to the traffic congestion caused by cars parked on both sides of the street when dropping off and picking up students. The residents felt that this was creating a traffic safety hazard and suggested parking be prohibited on one side of the street(s). Mr. Davis stated that the study was conducted on September 12, 2017 and September 13, 2017. Two staff members were there and observed the conditions during the morning and the afternoon, they took some pictures and it would be an understatement to say that there was a problem out there. People were just dropping off and blocking areas and to their point, it was a very dangerous situation. What is before the Board, is to put some parking restrictions out there. Mr. Davis stated that it is strongly recommended that the Board, not only approve this parking restriction, but also that the Sheriff's Department follow up with some strict enforcement. Mr. Colling stated that he would also like to recommend the schools send something home to the parents regarding this issue and letting them know that selective enforcement is coming. They will be ticketed.

Mr. Colling asked if there was any other comments from staff on this issue. Mr. Davis said that subsequently to this, there was a request for a speed study in this same area; and what is presented to the Board tonight is only the parking signs issue. Mr. Davis was hoping to have the speed study completed but it was not scheduled yet, so it will be brought before the Board at the next meeting.

Several residents from the area presented their issues with the school drop offs and pick ups (Daniel Reich, Ten Point Drive, Brent Carr, Ten Point Drive, Mike, Vollmayer, Stag Ridge Road, Fauzi Farah, Ten Point Drive, John Wilson, Antler Court, Heidi Morris, Stag Ridge). All were concerned for the safety of the children and others and adamantly supported having no parking signs installed in this area. Emergency vehicles and Special Needs School Buses cannot maneuver through the parked vehicles.

Chairman Colling stated that there was a similar situation at Adams High School. The only way to deal with this is a communication has to come from the school administration to the parents that this type of behavior will not be tolerated, as this has become a public safety issue from the standpoint of emergency vehicle access. Chairman Colling feels that the time restrictions on the TCO seem adequate. He does recommend that the sign reflects no parking or standing on that side. This is the only thing that will allow the police to enforce this. He would recommend that within 90 days we revisit this and if we still have a problem, to increase the hours on the signs and maybe post the signs on both sides of the street. Mr. Davis verified that the new signs be posted on only one side of the street (east side); the one indicated.

Mr. Moore stated that he was concerned that in placing these signs, we were just going to move the problem down the street to the next intersection. Mr. Davis stated that even if it spread out away from the immediate area, the situation would be eliminated at this cross walk. Mr. Colling stated that he hoped the parents would go to a different drop off location or they are going to wait. The only thing he is worried about is if it turns out to be a standing parking lot. Mr. Moore asked if the City would place the signs further out? Mr. Davis stated that we would see how this first round goes and if we have to adjust it then he'll bring it back to the board. Mr. Colling stated that he would like to see how it works in ninety (90) days.

Mr. Colling asked if there was any more discussion by the board and if anyone would care to make a motion.

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve PK111.1, PK111.2 and PK111.3 as discussed and amended and rescind traffic control order PK-14.3. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pozolo.

Mr. Colling asked how soon the signs would be placed. Mr. Davis replied that he would call Bud Clark, sign shop supervisor, first thing in the morning. Mr. Colling requested the Engineering Department come back in February with results, to make sure things are going well.

MOTION by Moore
SECOND by Pozolo

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: Dropiewski, Neveau, Hunter

MOTION CARRIED

NOTE: Another resident, Mr. Steven Carlson, 1421 Mill Race Road, also in attendance, wanted to comment on the speed limit signs of 45 MPH that were recently posted on Washington Road. He stated that he has also contacted the Road Commission for Oakland County regarding this issue. Mr. Carlson felt that this speed limit was unreasonable due to the drainage issues and condition of this dirt road.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Communication Items

Mr. Moore wanted to mention that the traffic circle at Livernois and Tienken-great job! He felt the City has been negligent on letting drivers know how to proceed through the traffic circle at Livernois and Hamlin and the two safety barriers on Livernois and one on Avon. He has seen numerous accidents in these areas. Mr. Moore feels that the signage is wrong. On the two safety barriers there, the drivers do not know how to react to those. He believes the City needs better signage in these safety zones.

Mr. Davis stated that hopefully, these accidents that are occurring in the traffic circles are lower speed impact accidents and fatalities are generally not a problem with round-a-bouts. Mr. Davis feels that people are not slowing down for the round-a-bouts. They used to wait a couple minutes for a traffic signal and they do not want to wait a few seconds to get through the round-a-bout. There is definitely an education component to round-a-bouts. Mr. Colling stated that round-a-bouts in other cities have signage notifying drivers of what lane they need to be in to do what they need to do. Mr. Colling stated that Rochester Hills needs to put that kind of signage in.

Mr. Davis stated that for the crosswalks, you do not need to yield for the pedestrian if they have not entered the crosswalk you should not stop. Once they take ownership and enter the crosswalk, then the pedestrian has the right-of-way and the driver should stop. Just because a person is standing in the refuge island, does not mean they automatically have the right-of-way per Michigan law. But at the same time, the pedestrian has to exercise some common sense and caution when entering the crosswalk.

Mr. Davis stated that the City would review this area and determine if visual signage is needed to complement the pavement markings in place

2017-0450 Update Speed Study Requests and Other Requests

Mr. Davis wanted to take the opportunity to give the board an update on a few requests and items that were routed through Engineering for related traffic concerns. Mr. Davis stated he gets a lot of requests for speed studies and/or speed hump installations. Many times residents are surprised with the results after the speed counters have been placed and the results are in.

Edinshire Subdivision Speed Study Results:

85th percentile speeds came back that they were not over 31 MPH, which would indicate speeding. They were 25 MPH on Briston Drive. Northfield Drive came back at 26 MPH.

Wildflower Subdivision Speed Study Results:

85th percentile speeds came back at over 31 MPH on one of the streets, which would be a candidate for traffic calming. Primrose and Jonathon both came back at 28 MPH. Joshua was the street that came back at over 31 MPH.

Southern Avenue Parking Study Results:

Based on the study, there were a number of different days that we couldn't confirm that there was a parking problem out there, so the requester was notified that the request would not be brought before the Traffic and Safety Board.

John R and Auburn Crossing Guard Request:

Residents requested that the City approve a crossing guard at this location because it is a dangerous intersection. Mr. Collings stated that if the children follow the rules and cross when it tells them to, it shouldn't be a problem there. Mr. Colling stated that once the construction is completed in this area and the lights are back to normal at this intersection, and we have an operational crosswalk, he recommends a study at that point before any action is taken.

Section 33 Traffic Control Requests:

There was a project this summer where approximately 5 miles of water main was replaced using the pipe bursting method. It also included the repaving of the asphalt streets in the subdivision. Adjacent to that was the Auburn Road project and also the Livernois/South Blvd. intersection improvement by the Road Commission of Oakland County. This area had a lot of angst associated with it this summer. There were a number of people making requests for traffic studies, four way stop signs and speed humps to be installed. They were informed that the City was going to wait until all this was returned back to normal. Residents have called back and informed Mr. Davis that the problems no longer exist. Some speed studies may still be completed, but as far as coming to the Traffic Board, Mr. Davis doesn't foresee anything coming back to the Board.

Mr. Davis also wanted to mention that at the last Traffic Board meeting there was talk about the Country Club Village study that was going to be done. The study came back with the result of not the cut through traffic problem that was perceived. Mr. Davis told the subdivision that the City would do a follow-up study once the Day Care facility was operational.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 12, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.