

AGENDA – TSC 3/1/10

ITEM NO. 2: Consider rescinding the 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Michigan Street.

Facts:

1. At the April 6, 2009 Traffic Safety Commission meeting, the Commission considered a request to establish a 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Maine Street.
2. 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Maine Street is classified as a 'collector' street, paved 30 feet wide with sidewalks along both sides of the street and serves as a main access to Lawrence Memorial Hospital.
3. The posted speed limit at the time was 30 mph.
4. Traffic data collected on March 23-24, 2009 found 85th percentile speeds ranging from 34.2 mph to 43.4 mph with an average speed of 34.7 mph. Traffic volumes ranged from approximately 3500-5000 vehicles per day.
5. Based on this data and standard nation-wide practices for establishing speed limits, a 35 mph speed limit would be appropriate.
6. Other 'collector' streets in Lawrence posted at 35 mph include Crossgate Drive between Clinton Parkway & 27th Street, Harper Street between 19th Street & 23rd Street, Michigan Street between 2nd Street & Riverridge Road, Monterey Way between Bob Billings Parkway & Peterson Road, Riverridge Road between Michigan Street & Iowa Street and 27th Street between Crossgate Drive & Wakarusa Drive.
7. This Commission voted 7-1 to recommend establishing a 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Maine Street. Commissioner Miller requested a subsequent speed study approximately six months after the change.
8. At the May 12, 2009 City Commission meeting, the Commission approved a 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Michigan Street.
9. At the January 4, 2010 Traffic Safety Commission meeting, the Commission heard a request to rescind the 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street.
10. Traffic data collected December 4-5, 2009 found 85th percentile speeds ranging from 38.9 mph to 45.5 mph,

with an average of 34.8 mph (compared to 34.7 mph before the change).

11. This Commission voted 8-0 to table the request and to contact the original requestor and to place the request on a future agenda.

MINUTES – TSC 3/1/10

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider rescinding the 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT on 4th Street between McDonald Drive & Michigan Street.

David Woosley presented the information provided in the staff report.

Public comment:

Steve Braswell, 427 Michigan Street, Pinckney Neighborhood Association: We requested that the speed limit be rolled-back from 35 to the previous 30 mph; I found it very educational listening to the discussions on how you look at the concept of what a speed limit should be; there was not a positive reason to change the speed limit, when the road was designed it was thought that 30 mph was the appropriate speed limit at that time; since that time there has been quite a bit of residential development in the area; this is a very heavily residential area; the study shows that the average speed of traffic hasn't changed much since the speed limit was changed, so I don't think it would change the speed much rolling it back; we're not saying that speeding is a big problem on this stretch of road, I don't think at this time that traffic calming measures are required; our point is this is a heavily residential area and the neighbors around there would like to encourage people to drive a little slower; changing this speed limit has done nothing to improve the traffic flow in Lawrence, but it has placed pedestrians in a little more of an unsafe situation; in the summertime, there are lots of people out walking and crossing the street and there are no pedestrian crosswalks in this stretch of road.

Commissioner Woods asked why the City Commission cut back the previous recommendation from Maine to Michigan; Woosley advised that between Maine and Michigan there was considerable on-street parking along one side of the street while parking is prohibited along both sides between McDonald Drive and Michigan Street.

Commissioner Miller: It looks like this is an exercise in pulling-out speed limit signs, putting-in new ones and then pulling them out again; I have not changed my mind.

Commissioner Woods: I'm in agreement with you, signs are signs; the traffic hasn't changed. I don't think it is going to solve anything changing the signs and changing the ordinance.

Commissioner Smith: I'm comfortable with the way it is leaving it at 35.

Commissioner Novotny: If we had a true safety issue with numerous pedestrian accidents or numerous vehicle accidents it might be worthwhile making the change, but the study shows that driving habits don't change with the changing of a speed limit sign; also, that is a good thoroughfare to get to the ER at LMH.

Commissioner Heckler: I didn't support the increase in speed so I am going to stick with my original vote and support the 30 mph speed limit because of the residential area and pedestrians.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MILLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CRIQUI, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO RESCIND THE 35 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON 4TH STREET BETWEEN McDONALD DRIVE & MICHIGAN STREET; THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 7-1 (Heckler).

From: Robert F. Bechtel [mailto:bojobe22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2008 3:04 PM

To: Charles Soules

Subject: Discrepancies

Mr Soules,

I hope I am contacting the correct official. This about street and speed limits. East 4th from McDonald to the Hospital remains 30 miles an hour, while Monteray was increased to 35 miles an hour some time ago. Both have much traffic. Monteray has a park with numerous children and adults trying to cross Monteray (such as for sledding). It seems to me that east 4th should be increased to 35 miles an hour with less risk involved.

Thanks,

Bob Bechtel

David Woosley

From: Steve Braswell [steve@acornwebworks.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 8:17 PM
To: David Woosley
Cc: David L. Corliss
Subject: Speed Limit on 5th Street

David,

The Pinckney Neighborhood Association requests that the raising of the speed limit on 5th Street between Michigan Street and McDonald Drive be put on the Traffic Safety Commission Agenda to be reversed.

I have had several comments and emails concerning this action. I know no one who thinks raising the speed limit to 35 mph is a good idea and people also are concerned about the lack of awareness that this action was going to be taken.

Please let me know when this gets on the agenda.

Thank You,

Steve Braswell
President, Pinckney Neighborhood Association
785-841-6902
steve@acornwebworks.com

