

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
November 5, 2012-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Jason Novotny; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm; and John Ziegelmeyer Jr.

Anyone who wishes to be notified when an item will be heard by the City Commission must provide their name and a telephone number or an e-mail address.

ITEM NO. 1: Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, October 1, 2012.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request for SCHOOL CROSSING TRAFFIC CONTROL at 10th Street & Connecticut Street.

Facts:

1. The City's *School Crossing Control Policy* (SCCP) requires an average of at least ten (10) students using a crossing in order to consider any school crossing traffic control.
2. Appropriate traffic control is based on the number of students crossing and the number of sufficient gaps in traffic.
3. Pedestrian counts taken during September found an average of 9.33 students using this intersection during the morning crossing time.
4. Traffic gap studies conducted in October found six (6) of nine (9) 5-minute periods during the morning crossing time with less than one (1) adequate gap per minute; and all six (6) 5-minute periods during the afternoon crossing time with less than one (1) adequate gap per minute.

5. Based on the results of the gap study, the SCCP would provide that an adult crossing guard may be provided if there were sufficient students crossing the street.
6. Due to the part-time nature of an adult crossing guard and the annual cost, this commission has previously recommended that a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon be constructed in lieu of providing an adult guard.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request for a CROSSWALK at 27th Street & Kasold Drive.

Facts:

1. Kasold Drive is classified as an "arterial" street, generally paved five (5) lanes wide with a posted speed limit of 40mph.
2. Traffic data collected October 9-10, 2012, found 9130 vehicles in a 24-hour period with an 85th percentile speed of 52.4mph.
3. A comprehensive study of approximately 2000 crosswalks nationwide found the following:
 - a. Under existing traffic conditions, if a crosswalk was marked at either 27th Street or 28th Street, where no pedestrian refuge area is available in the center of the street, there is no statistical difference in the crash rate for an unmarked vs. marked crosswalk; however, when the traffic volume on Kasold increases to 12,000, the crash rate for a marked crosswalk is four (4) times higher than for an unmarked crosswalk.
 - b. Under existing traffic conditions, if a crosswalk was provided at a mid-block location between 27th Street & 28th Street, where a pedestrian refuge island would be provided, there is no statistical difference in the crash rate for an unmarked vs. marked crosswalk; however, when the traffic volume on Kasold increases to 15,000, the crash rate for a marked crosswalk is again four (4) times higher than for an unmarked crosswalk.
4. Therefore, if a pedestrian crossing is provided, it is recommended that it be at a mid-block location where a pedestrian refuge can be provided and that a pedestrian hybrid beacon also be provided.

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request for a STOP sign on St. Andrews Drive at Tam O'Shanter Drive.

Facts:

1. Both St. Andrews Drive and Tam O'Shanter Drive are classified as "local" streets in a residential area
2. According to Police Department records, there have not been any reported crashes at this intersection during the past three (3) years.
3. The speed limit on both streets is 30 mph.
4. Stopping sight distance measured in the field shows sufficient sight distance looking to the east of almost 40 mph and looking to the west of over 50 mph.

ITEM NO. 4: Public comment.

ITEM NO. 5: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 6: Miscellaneous.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
November 5, 2012 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Harden, Chair; Edwin Rothrock, Vice-Chair; Ryan Devlin; Tracy Russell; Chris Storm; and John Ziegelmeyer, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stuart Boley; Cody Howard; and Jason Novotny

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department
David Cronin, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Charles Branson; Nancy DeGarmo; Kenneth McKenzie

Chair Dan Harden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

Review and approve the minutes of the Traffic Safety Commission meeting, October 1, 2012.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, OCTOBER 1, 2012; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request for SCHOOL CROSSING TRAFFIC CONTROL at 10th Street & Connecticut Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Charles Branson, 1027 Rhode Island Street: Obviously, this is a very busy street and although we are only at an average of 9.33 students, I don't believe that an adult crossing guard is necessary for the intersection, but, something for people

to be able to get across the street is definitely necessary for the intersection; the neighborhoods along Rhode Island Street have experienced a renaissance over the past few years and has gone from no children in the area to over a dozen and continues to increase; some are not allowed to walk to school without a safe place to cross; I have walked my children to school every day for the past six (6) years and have definitely noticed an increase in foot traffic trying to cross; I think this a very worthwhile endeavor and hope that the Commission will consider a pedestrian hybrid beacon at the intersection.

Nancy DeGarmo, Principal, New York Elementary School: We like to consider ourselves a “walkable” school and the best way for us to walk, because of sidewalks, is along 10th Street, crossing at Connecticut; if we were to need to evacuate the school, our alternate site is the Arts Center and the best route to get there is along 10th Street; as the area across Connecticut continues to grow, we would like to see a “walking school bus” for students in the area and a crossing at 10th Street would be very helpful.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Devlin asked how much the school had been growing; DeGarmo advised that the school has been steady; however, the lower grades have significantly more students than the upper grades and it is anticipated that the school will continue to grow to the point of having two sections for each grade.

Commissioner Rothrock asked if the sidewalks along 9th Street and 11th Street were improved, would those routes be acceptable; DeGarmo advised that the beacon would be much safer for the students than 4-way stops.

Commissioner Rothrock: I am a little concerned about putting three (3) consecutive stops on what is the major north-south street on the east side of Lawrence.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND INSTALLATION OF A PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON ON CONNECTICUT STREET AT 10TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request for a CROSSWALK at 27th Street & Kasold Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Kenneth McKenzie, 2717 Meadow Place: There are quite a few people in our neighborhood that use the trail on the other side of Kasold that goes out to

Clinton Lake and to Iowa Street, but, there are times when it is very hard to get across Kasold with all the traffic; in addition, there is one child, approximately 13 years old, that needs to use a walker or wheelchair, that uses the trail; I truly believe that we need some sort of warning sign for people to safely cross that roadway.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked where the best location for a crossing would be; Woosley advised that it would be best at a mid-block location between 27th Street & 28th Street where a pedestrian refuge could be provided in the middle of the street.

Commissioner Rothrock asked if there were any plans for a traffic signal between Clinton Parkway & Nieder Road; Woosley advised that there were no current plans; however, the intersection of 31st & Kasold will probably need one in the future.

Commissioner Storm asked if there were any other crossings either upstream or downstream; Woosley advised that there was not.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: Logically, this is probably the best place with the location of the trail.

Commissioner Rothrock: When the South Lawrence Trafficway is completed, I anticipate that the traffic on Kasold will increase significantly.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STORM, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK ON KASOLD DRIVE BETWEEN 27TH STREET & 28TH STREET AND PLAN FOR THE ADDITION OF A PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON IN THE NEAR FUTURE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 5-1 (Russell; data indicates that a marked crosswalk would not be any safer under existing conditions).

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to for a STOP sign on St. Andrews Drive at Tam O'Shanter Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Storm asked if a speed study was conducted; Woosley advised that only a sight distance study was conducted.

Commissioner Devlin asked about the hill and sight distance; Woosley advised that the hill did not block sight distance based on the speed limit.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer asked if this location met the warrants for a stop sign; Woosley advised that it did not with no crash history and good sight distance.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER RUSSELL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN ON ST. ANDREWS DRIVE AT TAM O'SHANTER DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 6:

Commission Items:

None.

ITEM NO. 7:

Miscellaneous:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, December 3, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

David E. Woosley, P.E.
Transportation/Traffic Engineer