

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission Agenda
December 2, 2013-7:00 PM
City Commission Room, City Hall

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

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, November 4, 2013.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request to establish YIELD signs at the intersection of 30th Street & Kensington Road.

Staff Report:

1. Guidelines for the installation of YIELD signs are contained in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* published by the Federal Highway Administration; however, none of the requirements for consideration are currently met.
2. Police Department records do not show any reported crashes at this intersection during the past three (3) years.
3. Traffic data collected November 4-5, 2013, found 85th percentile speeds on all four (4) approaches to be below the 30 mph speed limit.
4. If YIELD signs are installed, they should be installed on 30th Street, the lower volume street; this could have an unintended consequence of increasing the speed of traffic on Kensington Road.
5. New developments in the city are required to provide traffic calming circles at all 4-way intersections of "local" streets.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request to establish NO PARKING on Harvard Road at Centennial Drive.

Staff Report:

1. Harvard Road is classified as a "collector" street and is paved 26 feet wide with a speed limit of 30 mph.
2. Parking is currently prohibited along the north side of Harvard and for 50 feet west of Centennial on the south side of Harvard.
3. Vegetation on the southwest corner of the intersection contributes to poor sight distance; however, the City's Environmental Division has contacted the property owner in order to bring that into compliance with the city code.
4. Prohibiting parking from Centennial, west to the first driveway would eliminate one additional parking space and approximately double the available sight distance.
5. Police Department records do not show any reported crashes at this intersection during the past three (3) years involving a northbound and eastbound vehicle.

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to establish NO LEFT TURN on southbound Missouri Street, Arkansas Street & Maine Street at 19th Street.

Staff Report:

1. During the past three (3) years, there have been three (3) reported crashes involving southbound left-turning vehicles at these intersections; one (1) at Arkansas and two (2) at Missouri; in addition there was one (1) reported crash at the involving a vehicle exiting the Naismith Hall parking lot and making a left-turn; all crashes occurred between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.
2. A NO LEFT TURN restriction can be established at each of these intersections to restrict turns at all times or during specified time periods; however, restricting these turn will increase left-turns at other locations such as Naismith Drive, Naismith Hall driveways or the alleys between Arkansas & Missouri and Maine & Missouri unless these locations are also restricted.

ITEM NO. 5: Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on Walnut Street between 6th Street & 7th Street.

Staff Report:

1. Walnut Street is classified as a "local" street in a residential area, paved approximately 20 feet wide, without curb & gutter or sidewalks, and a speed limit of 30 mph.
2. The City's *Traffic Calming Policy* provides that traffic calming devices may be provided if the 24-hour volume is greater than 1000 or if the 85th percentile speed of traffic exceeds the speed limit by 5 mph or more.
3. Traffic data obtained November 20-21 found approximately 275 vehicles in a 24-hour period and an 85th percentile speed of approximately 30.1 mph.
4. Therefore, it does not appear that this roadway meets the minimum criteria for consideration of traffic calming.

ITEM NO. 6: Public Comment.

ITEM NO. 7: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 8: Staff Items.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
December 2, 2013 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edwin Rothrock, Chair; John Ziegelmeier, Jr., Vice-Chair;
Ryan Devlin; Cody Howard; Steven Koprince; Tracy Russell;
and Chris Storm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Harden; Stuart Boley

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Betty Alderson, Richard Hardin and John Spurgeon

Chair Edwin Rothrock 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, November 4, 2013.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RUSSELL, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, NOVEMBER 4, 2013; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request to establish YIELD signs at the intersection of 30th Street & Kensington Road.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Koprince: None of the Manual's criteria appear to be met here; I don't think we have the discretion to recommend these YIELD signs.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KOPRINCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH YIELD SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF 30TH STREET & KENSINGTON ROAD; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING on Harvard Road at Centennial Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

Richard Hardin, 2401 Harvard Road: I've seen a lot of accidents at the intersection; the problem is the speed mainly of the traffic going west off Iowa Street coming down Harvard Road; it's a downhill slope and a leisurely curve that entices people to speed; there is almost never any parking to the east of Centennial, however, there is quite a bit of parking on the south side to the west of Centennial; the house across from us has at least three (3) cars that park in that area all the time; we always park in our driveway, but a lot of the driveways are only single garage driveways; my feeling is the best thing we can do to slow down traffic on Harvard Road is to park on Harvard Road, which will make people at least a little cautious; there's a complex sight problem to the west with a curve and a dip; my preference would be to continue to allow parking in this area; if you want to slow traffic down there, what ought to be done is either a 4-way stop at Harvard & Centennial or install some speed bumps to slow the traffic down; removing parking from Harvard Road is just going to inconvenience several people and encourage more speeding instead of encouraging people to drive more cautiously.

John Spurgeon, 2319 Orchard Lane: I agree with everything that has been said, but the problem we have is when we are coming-up from the south and looking to the west, with the dip, you can hardly see a school bus; you have to creep into the intersection to get a line of sight to the west; I'm not trying to take his parking spots away, but it greatly increases the line of sight; one of our neighbors told me they just avoid the intersection because they don't feel comfortable trying to creep-out into Harvard.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Rothrock asked if the vegetation had been taken care of; Woosley advised that he wasn't sure, but usually a property owner has 30 days after notification.

Commissioner Russell: I think the primary concern is the vegetation and landscaping; I don't know if removing 50 feet of parking is going to help with the sight distance at all.

Commissioner Koprince: I would like to see what happens with the vegetation and how it affects the line of sight before addressing this request.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KOPRINCE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO TABLE THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NO PARKING ON HARVARD ROAD AT CENTENNIAL DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to establish NO LEFT TURN on southbound Missouri Street, Arkansas Street & Maine Street at 19th Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted the receipt of two (2) e-mail's concerning this item.

Public Comment:

Betty Alderson, 1400 Lilac Lane: 19th Street has been a problem for years; you're locked-in to that narrow street there; traffic is backed-up in both directions bumper-to-bumper from Naismith to Massachusetts every day between four and six o'clock; I don't know what a solution to this is; part of the problem is that people are in a hurry; when I read this I thought I'm not sure closing those streets is an answer, but I don't know what the answer could be.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: I'm not sure how effective that sign would be; Woosley advised that the proposed sign would not be legal, but that NO LEFT TURN signs could be installed.

Commissioner Rothrock suggested that DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION signs may be more appropriate.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: I don't want to diminish that we have had accidents there, but three (3) accidents in three (3) at three (3) intersections is not very high.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RUSSELL, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NO LEFT TURN ON SOUTHBOUND MISSOURI STREET, ARKANSAS STREET & MAINE STREET AT 19TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on Walnut Street between 6th Street & 7th Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comment:

None.

Commission Discussion:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RUSSELL, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING ON WALNUT STREET BETWEEN 6TH STREET & 7TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 6:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 7:

Commission Items:

None.

ITEM NO. 8:

Staff Items:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, January 6, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

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