

City of Lawrence

Traffic Safety Commission

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February 2, 2015 Agenda

7:00 PM - City Commission Room, City Hall

COMMISSION MEMBERS: John Ziegelmeyer Jr., Chair; Ryan Devlin, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Travis Harrod; Jason Hoskinson; Steven Koprince; Edwin Rothrock; 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, December 1, 2014.

ITEM NO. 2: Consider request for a SCHOOL CROSSWALK on 9th Street at Crestline Drive for West Middle School students.

Staff Report:

1. Both 9th Street and Crestline Drive (south of 9th Street) are classified as "collector" streets; Crestline Drive north of 9th Street is classified as a "local" street.
2. The City's *School Crossing Control Policy* (attached) states that school crossing controls will be provided for elementary students only.
3. A recent traffic analysis of this intersection found that during the morning peak-hour, Crestline Drive experiences long stacking; more than 12 vehicles on the south approach and 8-10 vehicles on the north approach.

4. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices states that one of the criteria to be considered for MULTI-WAY STOP control is "Five or more reported crashes in a 12-month period that are susceptible to correction by a multi-way stop installation." During the period June 26, 2012-June 17, 2013, there were five reported crashes at the intersection; therefore, a multi-way stop installation may be justified at this intersection.

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request for a LOADING ZONE at 905 Rhode Island Street.

Staff Report:

1. The city currently has 12 loading zones established by ordinance and listed in Schedule 2 (attached) of the traffic schedules.
2. If approved, it is recommended that the loading not be specific to a single business and be signed similar to the attached example.

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to establish NO PARKING along the north side of 6th Street for approximately 50 feet east of Mississippi Street.

Staff Report:

1. Although parking is prohibited along the north side of 6th Street, there is recessed parking within the 6th Street right-of-way between Indiana Street and Mississippi Street.
2. When vehicles are parked in the recessed area near Mississippi Street, sight distance can be obstructed, depending on the number of, and size of, vehicles parked there.
3. There has been one (1) reported crash at this intersection during the past three (3) years involving southbound and westbound vehicles.

ITEM NO. 5: Consider request to establish Yale Road as a ONE-WAY eastbound between Murrow Court and Crestline Drive.

Staff Report:

1. Yale Road is classified as a "local" street in a residential area and is adjacent to West Middle School.
2. Yale Road is currently established as a one-way street eastbound between Schwarz Road and Murrow Court; this is a continuation of the one-way designation of Schwarz Road southbound between 9th Street and Yale Road.
3. Parking is prohibited along the south side of Yale Road between Schwarz Road and Crestline Drive.
4. Establishing this portion of Yale Road as a one-way street may be an inconvenience to residents of Murrow Court and Madeline Lane between 9th Street and Yale Road and may slightly increase the amount of northbound traffic on Crestline Drive at 9th Street.
5. Although the request mentions a problem with parking on both sides of Schwarz Road between 9th Street and Yale Road during school drop-off and pick-up times, the school district plans to request that recessed angle-parking be permitted adjacent to Sunset Hill Elementary which may eliminate this problem.

ITEM NO. 6: Public Comment.

ITEM NO. 7: Commission Items.

ITEM NO. 8: Staff Items.

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
February 2, 2015 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Ziegelmeier, Jr., Chair; Ryan Devlin, Vice-Chair; Stuart Boley; Travis Harrod; Jason Hoskinson; Steven Koprince; Edwin Rothrock; and Chris Storm

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Hoskinson; and Tracy Russell

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: MacKenzie Rose, Jen Unekis, Jamie Howard, David Unekis, Amber Nickel, Milton Scott, Ed Callahan, Phyllis Farrar, and Gary Webber

The meeting was called to order by John Ziegelmeier, Jr. 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, December 1, 2014.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STORM, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 1, 2014; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0-1.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request for a SCHOOL CROSSWALK on 9th Street at Crestline Drive for West Middle School students.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

None.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Koprince: I think we need to deny this request and advise the person that made the request that we would consider a request for a 4-WAY STOP at a future meeting.

Commissioner Rothrock: We can put that request on a future agenda ourselves.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer requested that consideration of a 4-WAY STOP at this intersection be placed on a future agenda.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARROD, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST FOR A SCHOOL CROSSWALK ON 9TH STREET AT CRESTLINE DRIVE FOR WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request for a LOADING ZONE at 905 Rhode Island Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

MacKenzie Rose, 2823 Gill Avenue: The Social Service League operates a thrift store at 905 Rhode Island and there is very little parking; our donors are stopping on Rhode Island Street to drop-off donations; we would like to request a 15 minute parking zone to help us solve this obstruction to Rhode Island.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Rothrock: I think that situation is only going to get worse with the new hotel around the corner as people avoid parking in the structure or valet parking.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER STORM, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A 15 MINUTE LOADING ZONE, 9AM-6PM, TUESDAY-SATURDAY IN FRONT OF 905 RHODE ISLAND STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING along the north side of 6th Street for approximately 50 feet east of Mississippi Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

Jen Unekis, 707 W. 4th Street, read a prepared statement (attached.)

Jamie Howard, Manager of Bob's Imports, 714 W. 6th Street: I think with the traffic coming-out of the school, there should be a stoplight; the front is for my older clients to provide a short walk to the door; sometimes we get busy and can't shuffle cars around; if you stop at the stop sign, you can see through the sidewalk area; when people park in front of Fleetwood next to me, that's when it gets obstructed; if I could do like a time limit, at least 15 minute parking, I really need those three spots.

David Unekis, 707 W. 4th Street: We did record a video and posted it on YouTube that can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGtIThysAAA>; even when you can see behind parked cars, there is an alley just to the east and Indiana Street where cars come out and turn west; if you do see cars coming over the hill behind parked cars, you lose them behind the parked cars; I encourage you to take a look at the video; I think a 15 minute zone is better than doing nothing, it would certainly prevent overnight parking.

The video was shown on the screens in the room.

Jen Unekis: I don't know how 15 minute parking would be regulated; if it occurs when school is getting-out, the view would still be limited for that traffic.

Amber Nickel, 310 Northwood Lane: I hope the city can work with the business and the school, but, it is a nasty little intersection; I've had near accidents there; it is really pretty dangerous.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Devlin: I totally agree with the idea that that is a dangerous intersection.

Commissioner Harrod: My personal opinion would be to step up to it gradually, rather than just erasing parking in front of Bob's Imports; I would go with the suggestion that we make it a 15 or 20 minute zone.

Commissioner Koprince: I think that is a wise move at this point; I'm hesitant to just wipe-out the parking spots without trying something less, acknowledging that this is a problem intersection.

Commissioner Rothrock: I think this is a good step to balance the needs.

Commissioner Boley: I think we should give this a chance to work.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HARROD, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING A 15 MINUTE PARKING ZONE FOR 50 FEET IN THE RECESSED PARKING AREA ON THE NORTH SIDE OF 6TH STREET, EAST OF MISSISSIPPI STREET, THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

Consider request to establish Yale Road as a ONE-WAY eastbound between Murrow Court and Crestline Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report. .

Public Comments:

Milton Scott, 907 Madeline Lane: I'm not in favor of changing Yale Road; I don't think there is a traffic flow problem, there is a parking lot problem for West Middle School; we are concerned that traffic that can now access the parking lot from Crestline to Yale Road, would have to use Madeline Lane or Murrow Court to get to the parking lot; cars that park on Madeline Lane for events at the church on 9th would have to use Murrow Court or turn around in the driveways on Madeline Lane in order to park on the east side of the street; I don't think we can take any more traffic on Madeline Lane.

Ed Callahan, 925 Madeline Lane: I would suggest that it be a one-way part-time, 8am-4pm, school days only.

David Unekis, 707 W. 4th Street: It may be better to take a look at this after changes are completed at Sunset Hills Elementary.

Phyllis Farrar, 907 Murrow Court: I would like to support the request; the change from a two-way street to a one-way street is often missed by drivers who are westbound on Yale, resulting in vehicles travelling on around Schwarz, surprising anyone passing the elementary school; when parents are waiting to pick-up students, they wait on both sides of Yale, leaving just enough room for a vehicle to get through; we support this change and we think it would improve traffic flow and safety for the students; it would require us to change our driving habits and it may increase traffic on Murrow Court.

Jen Unekis, 707 W. 4th Street: I don't really know what the solution to the problem is; I don't know how a one-way would make things any better.

Gary Webber, 907 Murrow Court: The diverter would work most of the time; but during school hours it would be a major bottleneck.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Boley noted that a diverter may be able to be placed at Yale & Murrow to solve the problem of vehicles entering the wrong way.

Commissioner Rothrock: I see some pretty serious issues with taking all of the traffic that is approaching that area from the south and forcing them to turn left onto 9th Street and then turning left again; if Vermont Street behind St. John's School is any indication, I think you will get three lines of stopped cars; I'd be very concerned that you would plug-up the area.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: A diverter at Murrow Court makes a little bit of sense to me.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROTHROCK, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO ESTABLISH YALE ROAD AS A ONE-WAY EASTBOUND BETWEEN MURROW COURT AND CRESTLINE DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0.

ITEM NO. 6:

Public Comment:

None.

ITEM NO. 7:

Commission Items.

Commissioner Boley noted that he attended a Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Board meeting on January 21, representing the Traffic Safety Commission; I advised them that the TSC considers many pedestrian safety issues.

Woosley advised that the City Commission was considered establishing a Task Force for this issue with representation from many area organizations, including the TSC.

Commissioner Rothrock noted that he has represented the TSC on another pedestrian planning committee.

ITEM NO. 8:

Staff Items:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, March 2, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

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