

Bobbie Walthall

From: Richelle Tremaine <richelletremaine@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Consent Agenda Item #13

Good morning,

I'm writing to voice my concern regarding Consent Agenda Item #13 -- specifically, the proposed roundabout installation in the University Place Neighborhood.

We are strongly against a roundabout put in this location. Traffic calming devices work just fine. A roundabout will scar the neighborhood, as well as not serve the intended purpose. Most people in the general population DO NOT know how to navigate a roundabout.

I've lived in cities in the Northeast where they've had roundabouts and over the past several years, progressive cities are REMOVING roundabouts as they are a safety issue. This isn't even mentioning the amount of pavement space required for them.

Please take this into consideration.

Feel free to get in touch with me directly if needed.

Thank you for your time.

Richelle Derks

Bobbie Walthall

To: Schott, Susan K.
Subject: RE: Please remove Item #13 from Consent Agenda!

From: Schott, Susan K. [<mailto:sschott@ku.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 11:35 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Please remove Item #13 from Consent Agenda!

Dear Commissioners,

Please remove Item #13 from the Consent Agenda for this evening's vote.

Additional discussion is needed on the subject of traffic calming devices in the University Place neighborhood. I believe that the device at the intersection of 17th and Illinois Street is not only unnecessary but actually detrimental to traffic safety. In the more than 40 years I've lived at the corner of this intersection, I have seen ONE traffic accident there -- it was caused when an intoxicated neighbor swerved to avoid running into the traffic calmer and hit a tree instead. And now, on a regular basis, I witness near collisions as cars cut this way and that around the "calmer."

What is the need for creating better "flow" through the University Place neighborhood? KU basketball games are the only occasions that bring significant traffic into this area. Traffic coming from and going to the university can be easily handled by stop signs, which do far more to slow vehicles than the expensive, confusing, and frequently unsightly "calmers."

The sudden listing of this UPNA item as a #1 priority is puzzling. And the estimated cost of \$100,000 (!) for the permanent installation of "calmers" in the UP neighborhood -- with ongoing maintenance costs to the city (or cost to the neighborhood if the city can't afford the upkeep) -- warrants more input from the public than the city is allowing.

I respectfully request that you allow that input by removing Item #13 and deferring it for further discussion. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Susan Schott
1700 Illinois Street
Lawrence KS 66044
sschott@ku.edu

June 6, 2016

Mayor, Commissioners and City Manager:

My name is Rebecca Snyder and I have lived at 1656 Illinois in the University Place neighborhood for over 30 years. Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend the June 7th meeting and I am writing to express my concern over the traffic calming device proposed for the intersection of 17th and Illinois. In February of this year, my family contacted David Woosley to discuss our worries about the installation of a traffic calming device and requested more information regarding the approval process. I have attached the emails for your consideration.

The supposed "need" for a traffic calming device is based on a 14 year old traffic study performed in 2002. A temporary traffic calming device was approved on 05/05/03 by the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC). Few, if any, of the residents speaking in support of the construction of said device currently live in the neighborhood. The City Commission considered and approved the temporary traffic calming device on 6/03/03.

Permanent traffic calming devices were approved by the TSC on 6/07/04 and by the City Commission on 06/22/04.

In 2005, the City of Lawrence enacted the Traffic Calming Policy, Resolution 6602 which requires, in part, that 70% of neighbors within 300 feet of the proposed traffic calming device approve the installation via signature. Mr. Woosley stated this policy would not be applied retroactively to this project. (Email attached)

In 2011, many neighbors came together to request the removal of the temporary traffic calming device at 17th and Illinois and requested that 4 way stops be installed. The Traffic Safety Commission considered the request on 8/01/11. The petition with signatures of residents nearest the intersections involved are attached to this letter as are the minutes from the meeting and correspondence provided to the TSC. It is interesting to note that those who spoke in opposition of the traffic calming device still reside in the neighborhood. The two residents who spoke in support have moved out of the neighborhood.

Although the design has yet to be determined, there is concern among neighbors who live on the corners of the intersections in question that traffic calming devices will bring cars even closer to their homes which will increase noise and potentially decrease property values.

The neighborhood association has not consulted with any of the neighbors owning the corner properties impacted by the traffic calming devices about their wishes. Many of those desiring the construction of these devices not only do not live in the corner homes but also live on streets not impacted by these changes.

In the many years I have lived on the corner of 17th and Illinois, there has only been one accident and that was caused by someone hitting the temporary traffic calming device. I have seen emergency vehicles, snow plows and large trucks negotiate these traffic calming devices with great difficulty.

Neighborhoods change over the years and ours is no different. We have had many people who were in support of this process move out and many new neighbors who haven't had any say in this process move in. Additionally, KU is in the process of drastically changing traffic patterns in the areas surrounding our neighborhood with the Central District Development Project. We do not currently know if this will significantly increase or decrease traffic in our neighborhood. Because of the expense of these traffic calming devices and due to the 14 year gap between initialization and implementation of this plan I respectfully request the following occur before a permanent traffic calming device is installed at 17th and Illinois:

- The City Commission direct the Traffic Safety Commission to implement a more current traffic study for the area, to be performed after the construction of the University of Kansas Central District Development Project, to ascertain the impact of that project on neighborhood traffic and the necessity of traffic calming devices.
- The City Commission direct the Traffic Safety Commission to implement Resolution 6602 and obtain the necessary neighborhood signatures for approval of this traffic calming device as the majority of the original residents in support are no longer in the neighborhood. (Similar to the Riverview Road traffic calming being pulled from consideration due to residents in support of the project having moved—Current agenda Staff Memo).

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Snyder
1656 Illinois

AGENDA – TSC 8/1/11

ITEM NO. 4: Consider request to remove the TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CALMING device at the intersection of 17th Street & Illinois Street.

Facts:

1. The Traffic Safety Commission and the City Commission approved a traffic calming plan for the University Place Neighborhood in 2004. Part of that plan included a permanent traffic calming circle at the intersection of 17th Street & Illinois Street. However, funding has not been available to complete the plan, including this traffic calming circle. The neighborhood was aware that it may be some time before funding would be available and requested that the temporary traffic calming circle remain in place until permanent construction is completed.
2. Due to the nature of the materials, temporary installations do not provide as much of a reduction in traffic speed as a permanent installation provides.

MINUTES – TSC 8/1/11

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request to remove the TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE at the intersection of 17th Street & Illinois Street.

David Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public comment:

John Huston, 1649 Illinois Street: As configured, I don't believe the circle slows north-south traffic, there are stop signs east-west; you can go straight through the intersection without having to swerve and many do; I don't see any more or any less speeding; they are a problem for emergency vehicles; I know of one accident that occurred because a large truck could not get through; if something is needed there, I would prefer stop signs; I circulated a petition (attached) Saturday afternoon and got 23 signatures within one (1) block requesting removal; it can be confusing for east-west motorists with a traffic circle 15 mph sign and a stop sign (picture attached.)

Blake Hedges, 1714 Illinois Street: I disagree with everything that has been said; vehicles coming down the hill hit 40 mph; our neighborhood spent at least a year working on this plan; people don't like them and that is what we want to help keep people from cutting-through the neighborhood; it isn't perfect the way it is, but you can't go the speed limit with it in place; cars are going slower since it was put in.

Mary Lou Wright, 1734 Illinois Street, provided a copy of a letter from 2006 (attached): When it snows we don't get plowed very well and vehicles get stuck in the drain going around the circles; I would like to see them removed.

Paulette Strong, 1638 Illinois Street: It seems that hard data was looked at before these were put in, I think we need to take a new look at the data; if a calming device is needed, it should be effective; perhaps we need to get some new data.

Dietrich Earnhart, 1714 Mississippi Street: I served on the neighborhood traffic safety committee in 2000; it took us three (3) years after doing a lot of work; we canvassed the neighborhood with an elaborate survey; we analyzed the data and brought it to you; we had many meetings; we took a vote and brought it to you and the city commission; all of this was a package, we analyzed it as a package and presented it to you as a package; it was an attempt to reclaim our neighborhood as a residential area; any change should be based on a lot of work like we did to get them installed; the devices we chose were well-informed, we had a lot of input from many people; they are visual and tell the driver this is not an arterial street, this is a residential street.

Commissioner Miller asked where it was on the list for a permanent installation; Woosley advised it was near the top, number one or number two.

Commissioner Ziegelmeier: This neighborhood did an incredible amount of work to get their package approved; we have to remember that stop signs are not a traffic diverter, they never have been, they don't divert traffic, that's why these were put in; I don't think I could be in favor of removing just one; I think the whole package would need to be looked at.

Commissioner Harden: I'd be in favor of whatever the neighborhood wants to do, but we aren't getting a clear message.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, TO RECOMMEND DENYING THE REQUEST TO REMOVE THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE AT THE INTERSECTION OF 17TH STREET & ILLINOIS STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 (Woods: neighbors want it out.)

From: Wufoo
To: Megan Gilliland; Eric Gruber
Sent: Thu Jul 14 09:17:45 2011
Subject: Our goal: Better city service [#164]

Subject	Roundabouts
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Comments

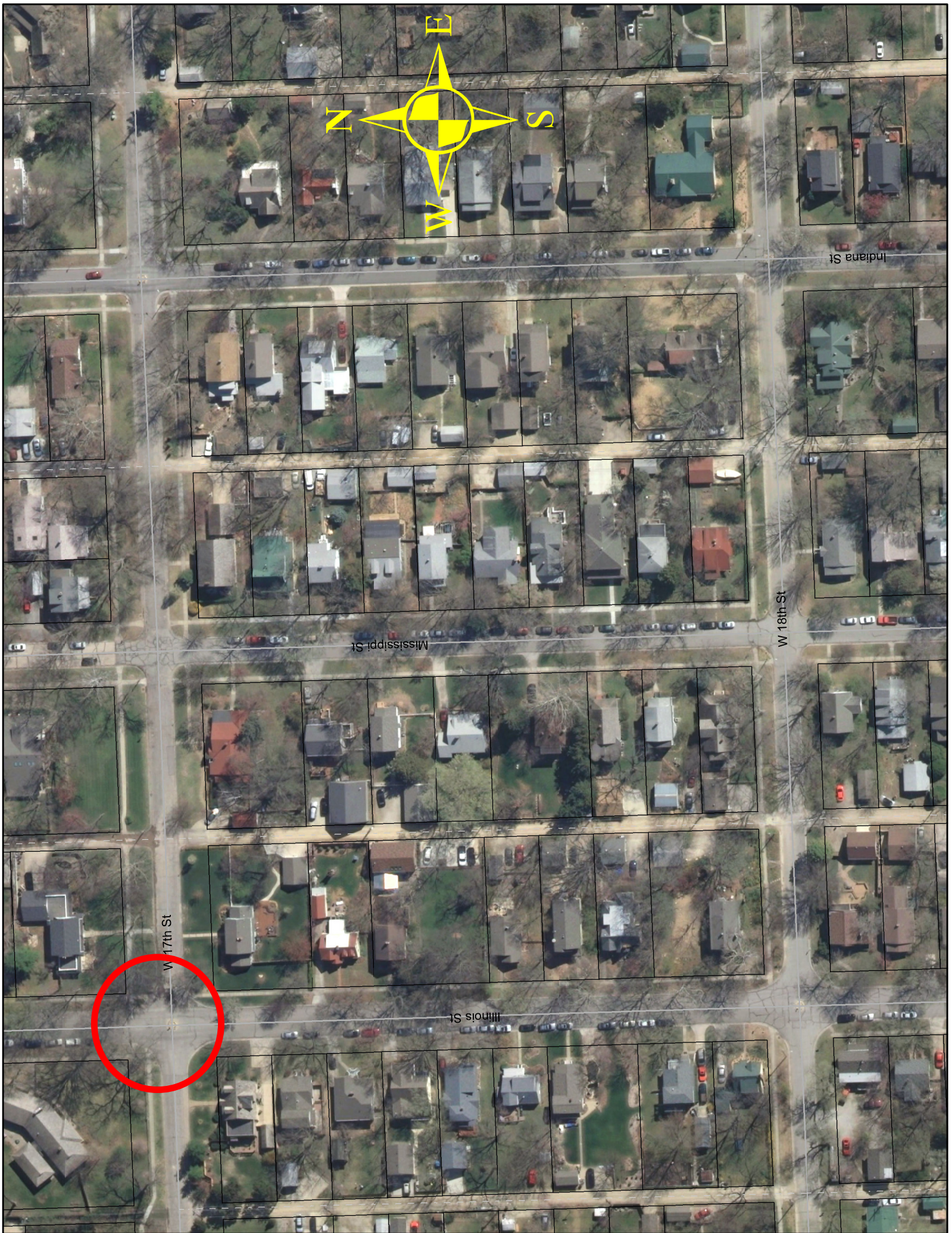
I have lived on the 1600 block of Illinois for 40 years. The "traffic calming" device at the corner of 17th and Illinois was requested by the neighborhood association several years ago but the only vehicles slowed are emergency vehicles. Most of the neighbors who were in favor of these have moved out of the neighborhood. I would like to request removal of the structure. A stop sign at that corner would be more effective. The one at the corner of 18th and Illinois seems confusing when a sign a few feet from it gives notification of it and a minimum speed but there is a stop sign at that corner. Thank you for your attention to this.

Name	Melinda Huston
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Gender	Female
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Email *	mahust@sunflower.com
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Address	 1649 Illinois Lawrence, KS 66044 United States
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Regarding Traffic Calming Device at 17th and Illinois

We the undersigned home owners of the surrounding neighborhood request the removal of the traffic calming device in the intersection.

Name

Address

John & Helen	1649 Illinois St.
Melinda Houston	1649 Illinois St.
Diana K. Legler	1630 Illinois St.
Paulette Strong	1638 Illinois St.
Jim Aubel (bye-mail)	1640 Illinois St.
Rebecca Miller	1656 Illinois St.
Journey L. Ray	1701 Mississippi St.
Quinn Lee	1705 Illinois
JONA & SUE GRONBEK-TEDESCO	1655 Illinois
BILL AND SUS ANDERSON	1646 ILLINOIS
CAROL PILANT Carol Plant	1815 Illinois
GREG SAWYER	1715 ILLINOIS ST.
Jennifer Wayland	1724 Illinois St.
Mary Ann White	1734 Illinois St.
JAMES & CHRISTINA	1800 MISSISSIPPI ST.
Susan O'Craig	1717 Indiana

all out!
18th & Ill.
18th & Indiana
ALSO
remove
these on
too!

Indiana

Gay Rose Schick
1701 ILLINOIS ST.

Paul Birch 1720 Indiana
Jennifer Hanson 1724 Indiana
Paul Ott 1633 Illinois
Ann Ott 1633 Illinois
Susan Shett 1700 Illinois
Michael Duggs 1700 Illinois

203 in Indiana



December 1, 2006

Traffic Safety Commission:

RE: University Place requests for traffic calming devices

A few years ago, University Place Neighborhood asked for more stop signs to slow traffic in and around the university. We were told we couldn't have more stop signs or speed bumps, drivers didn't like them, we had to have traffic circles. Let's go back to stop signs, they're cheaper and effective.

First of all, I want to thank you for the diverter on 18th St. near the Naismith Parking lot. That has made a world of difference with traffic volume on 18th St. from Louisiana to Alabama. Because of less traffic, circles are unnecessary, our 4 way stops continue to work just fine.

The young families for years have requested some kind of assistance at 18th and Louisiana to make ~~crossing~~ crossing to Veterans' Park safer. Since we are desperately trying to keep the young families here and not convert to more student rental slums, I beg you to put some half way stop, crossing feature there to accomodate these families

The four roundabouts (or nonroundabouts that we've tolerated for the last 2 years) have been a joke. People still sail down Indiana and probably Illinois. But they stop at 18th ST BECUASE there are stop signs. Yes, sometimes someone runs the signs - and they do now because the message is confusing (1. slow to 15 mph round about, then 2. a stop sign. Which is correct: both? neither?)

I cannot speak to the 17th St. roundabouts (those living on those corners have some amusing stories) but on 18th St. we have had 4 way stop for years; they work; they require no more expense to the city, which could spend the money on street repairs and/or better signage of no parking areas and better police patrolling enforcing the no parking. (If police swing by at all, it's early morning, so KU and LHS know they're "safe" from about 10 am on.)

So please note my very strong NO vote on 18th and Illinois "round about". Our stop signs work well, use the city's very limited funds elsewhere.

Mary Lou Wright
1734 Illinois
(corner of 18th & Illinois
40 year resident)

Subject: RE: Traffic Calming at 17th and Illinois

From: David Woosley (DWoosley@lawrenceks.org)

To: eventersmom@yahoo.com;

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016 2:25 PM

Staff will set the priorities within the next few weeks (a specific date has not been set) and then contact the neighborhoods to determine how they want to proceed.



David E. Woosley, P.E., *Transportation/Traffic Engineer* – dwoosley@lawrenceks.org

Public Works Department | [City of Lawrence, KS](http://www.cityoflawrenceks.org)

P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044

Office (785) 832-3034 | Fax (785) 832-3054

From: Staci Warner [mailto:eventersmom@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:23 PM
To: David Woosley
Subject: Re: Traffic Calming at 17th and Illinois

David,

Thanks so much for your response and time. The neighborhood is certainly split in their opinion though no one in the involved intersections supports the traffic calming devices.

Last question, when will the city be making a determination about which projects will move forward and will the public be able to provide input at that time?

Thanks again,

Staci

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2016, at 9:58, David Woosley <DWoosley@lawrenceks.org> wrote:

Staci,

I'll respond as best I can:

1. Although the project was approved in 2003, the City Commission has not provided funding for traffic calming projects until this year.
2. When the policy was approved in 2005, there was no indication that it would apply retroactively to previously approved projects.
3. Having said that; the project was initiated by the neighborhood association and contacts over the years have indicated that they want to continue as proposed; however, the city is not interested in constructing traffic calming devices in a neighborhood that doesn't want them, since there are plenty of neighborhoods that do want them.
4. I would suggest that you and other residents work with the neighborhood association to determine what devices, if any, are desired, so that projects can proceed as quickly as possible when funding is available.

Thanks,

<image001.gif>

David E. Woosley, P.E., *Transportation/Traffic Engineer* – dwoosley@lawrenceks.org

Public Works Department | [City of Lawrence, KS](#)

P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044

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From: Staci Kemerling [<mailto:eventersmom@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:11 PM

To: David Woosley

Subject: Re: Traffic Calming at 17th and Illinois

Hi David,

Thank you for your response. It looks as though this project was approved in 2003. That seems like a very long time between approval and construction. Circumstances in the neighborhood have changed. Is there any procedure by which this project could be reviewed again?

Also, I noticed the City adopted a Traffic Calming Policy, Resolution 6602, in 2005. This requires 70% of neighbors within 300 feet of the proposed traffic calming device to approve the installation via signature.

Can this be applied to the proposed round about? Between the length of time between approval and the changing population of the neighborhood, it seems this would be an appropriate way to gauge the desire of the neighborhood to install this circle. In fact, in 2011, many neighbors signed a petition to remove the temporary device altogether. I believe you would find those living nearest this intersection have zero desire for a traffic calming circle.

Last, there is a big bicycle race in Lawrence, I believe it is called the Tour of Lawrence, that runs through this intersection each year. Each year the organizers of this race pay the city to remove the temporary traffic circle in order to allow bicyclists to navigate the intersection safely. Installation of a permanent circle would impact this event, which brings revenue to Lawrence. I feel this needs to be taken into consideration.

Thank you,

Staci

From: David Woosley <DWoosley@lawrenceks.org>
To: 'Staci Kemerling' <eventersmom@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 12:50 PM
Subject: RE: Traffic Calming at 17th and Illinois

Hi Staci,

The City has not yet determined which projects will be constructed this year; but, that should be taking place soon. Since traffic calming has already been approved by the City Commission for the neighborhood, no additional approvals are needed. However, we will work with the neighborhood and adjacent property owners on the design of any devices that are constructed. A traffic calming circle at 17th & Illinois would be similar to 17th & Rhode Island; however, it may not be that large;

that will be determined in design.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

<image001.gif>

David E. Woosley, P.E., *Transportation/Traffic Engineer* – dwoosley@lawrenceks.org
Public Works Department | [City of Lawrence, KS](#)
P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044
Office (785) 832-3034 | Fax (785) 832-3054

From: Staci Kemerling [<mailto:eventersmom@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:47 PM

To: David Woosley

Cc: Rebecca Snyder

Subject: Traffic Calming at 17th and Illinois

Mr. Woosley,

My mother, Rebecca Snyder, lives on the corner of 17th and Illinois. She has been informed by the neighborhood association that there will be a permanent traffic calming device installed in the intersection to replace the current "temporary" device that has been there for several years. She also has been told that the neighborhood association is requesting a round about that is similar to the one found at 17th and Rhode Island, which is significantly larger than the current temporary device.

We have several questions pertaining to this change, the first being is this is something that is already approved or if it will have to go through an approval process? If an approval process is required, could you explain what the process consists of and which board or commissions are involved?

Additionally, because the round about on Rhode Island is so much larger, how much of the easement would be absorbed for this project and how much easement would each corner property owner lose?

We appreciate your time and await your response. If it would be easier to reply via phone, my number is 785-760-0066.

Thank you,

Staci Warner

Attachments

- image001.gif (1.97KB)