

City of Lawrence Transportation Commission July 10, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Bryan, David Hamby, Chris Storm, Mark Hurt, Steve Evans, John Ziegelmeyer, Michele Dillon, Ron May, Jeff Severin, Kathryn Schartz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin Paden

STAFF PRESENT: David Cronin, Public Works Department
Zach Baker, Public Works Department
Aaron Roberts, Public Works Department
Jessica Mortinger, Senior Transportation Planner MPO

PUBLIC PRESENT: Marilyn Hull, Travis Robinett, Dietrich Earnhart

A complete video recording of the meeting is available on the City's website at <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/transportation-commission/>

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Bryan at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

[Approve of June 5th, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

Moved by Commissioner Hurt, second by Commissioner Paden, to approve minutes. The motion carried, 10-0.

ITEM NO. 2

[General Public Comment](#)

Public Discussion:

[Marilyn Hull](#), requested to have pedestrian bicycle funding items presented at a regular Transportation Commission meeting not including the study sessions.

[Travis Robinett](#), made a request that 19th Street be changed from an arterial to a collector street and that the connection between 19th & Harper and 19th & O'Connell not be completed. He asked for support as this item is evaluated.

[Bonnie Uffman](#), spoke in favor of Travis' comments

[Dietrich Earnhardt](#), spoke in favor of Travis' comments. He feels that the connection of 19th Street would increase car traffic and not persuade people to walk and bike.

Commissioner Evans asked about an upcoming study session for 19th Street.

Commissioner Bryan stated it would be in November.

David Cronin stated that the issue was being studied and that all 19th could be reviewed in the study session.

Jessica Mortinger stated that it would be better to respond to concerns when staff had more data available to present to the Transportation Commission.

ITEM NO. 3:

[18th & Indiana 4 way STOP request](#)

Staff Presentation:

David Cronin gave a presentation on 18th & Indiana 4 way STOP request with a staff recommendation to approve a temporary 4-way STOP and temporary crosswalk markings at the intersection of 18th & Indiana. He provided project history with the neighborhood and the traffic calming project. The temporary STOPS are being recommended because of a current senior at Lawrence High that is visually impaired and walks through this intersection.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Steve Evans spoke in favor of the STOP signs and the public process. He spoke about how drivers yield to traffic calming circles and said that he did not know if signage was an answer to assist drivers as they operate vehicles. He spoke about artwork possibly being placed in traffic calming circles.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about the number of traffic calming circles.

David Cronin stated that there would be 17 traffic calming circles after the completion of the University Place traffic calming circles.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked if in road yield signs in the crosswalk would be used

David Cronin said that the signs are typical at marked mid-block crosswalks. The placement of signs outside of the wheel path may be difficult at residential intersections.

Commissioner Chris Storm asked about stop bars being used at all legs of the intersection.

David Cronin said that the stop bars were not used when crosswalks were not used.

Commissioner Michele Dillon stated that much of the traffic would be local and they may be able to adjust to this intersection having stop signs while others do not.

Public Discussion:

Brendy Latare made the request on behalf of her son. She thanked city staff for explaining standards and following through with the request. She requested that all 4 legs of the intersection have crosswalks placed as a temporary item to help with driver expectations.

Carol Bowen spoke in favor of 4 crosswalks. She asked the commission to represent all people including ADA.

Dietrich Earnhart asked why all traffic calming circles do not have pedestrian markings.

David Cronin said that crosswalks are used on school routes and on high pedestrian routes and that they could be used but maintenance and costs are considered.

Commissioner Chris Storm asked if it was a general rule that crosswalks are used at signaled intersections.

David Cronin said that was generally true but that they are used in other places as well.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner David Hamby asked if staff felt that having crosswalks at two legs of the intersection was appropriate and no crosswalks at the other two legs.

David Cronin stated that he did not have any concerns.

Commissioner Chris Storm requested that all four legs include crosswalks with stop bars.

Moved by Commissioner Storm, second by Commissioner Ziegelmeier, to recommend a temporary 4-way STOP and temporary crosswalk markings including stop bars at all four legs of the intersection of 18th & Indiana. The motion carried, 10-0.

ITEM NO. 4

Traffic Calming: Learnard Avenue – 15th Street to 19th Street

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker gave a presentation on proposed traffic calming on Learnard Avenue from 15th to 19th Street with a staff recommendation to approve the request for traffic calming on Learnard from 15th to 19th Street. The 85th percentile speed was over five miles per hour over the posted

speed limits. The volume and cut through traffic criteria were not met.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Mark Hurt asked about enforcement.

David Cronin stated that it was an option but that the police department does not have a designated traffic enforcement division.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked if it was uncommon to have a large number of cars at high speeds.

Zach Baker stated that it was not uncommon with a long stretch of road without curves or stops.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that bikes were present along this street. He asked about spacing for the speed bumps or humps.

David Cronin stated 300 to 400 feet is typical for spacing depending on property owners' desires.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked about the average speed after speed humps are installed.

David Cronin stated that he did not have data with him but that they were effective where they were located.

Nick Voss stated that the current design slows traffic down to approximately 20 miles per hour.

Public Discussion:

Bonnie Uffman asked about options other than speed bumps.

David Cronin stated that speed bumps would likely be recommended by staff and that this project would not have an impact on trees in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about chicanes.

David Cronin said that staff could consider options.

Bonnie Uffman stated that she would not like to disturb trees but supported this item.

Commissioner Chris Storm mentioned the attached correspondence in favor of the project.

Moved by Commissioner Hurt, second by Commissioner Schartz, to recommend traffic calming on Learnard Avenue from 15th to 19th Street. The motion carried, 10-0.

ITEM NO. 5:

[10th & Indiana 4-way STOP request](#)

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker gave a presentation on the proposed 4-way STOP at 10th & Indiana with a staff recommendation to deny the request for a 4-way STOP at 10th & Indiana Street. It does not meet the volume requirements. It did meet the requirements for crash history with 5 crashes in a 12 month period. In November additional signage was installed and no crashes have been reported since.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Mark Hurt asked if construction in the area could have affected the crash numbers.

Zach Baker stated that construction in the area may have affected the crash numbers.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about bicycle and pedestrian crashes in the area.

Zach Baker stated that there were no reported bicycle or pedestrian crashes

Commissioner Chris Storm stated that crash history spiked while 11th street was closed.

Zach Baker concurred.

Commissioner Mark Hurt asked if pedestrian crashes were included in the crash data source.

Zach Baker stated that they were included.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about bus routes on Indiana and asked about stop signs having an impact on transit.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he avoids 10th and Indian Street because of sightlines. He asked about sightline criteria for stop signs.

Zach Baker stated that sightlines were taken into consideration.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about mirror to see around corners.

Zach Baker stated that he was not aware of any that were used by the city.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about continuing to monitor the intersection.

Zach Baker stated that city staff would check crash history in November.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked that this item be deferred.

Commissioner Chris Strom stated that it took a long time to get this item to the commission.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that stop signs should be used as a necessity. Installing stop signs may increase mid-block speeds and with no recent accidents we do not want to create a problem when one does not exist.

Commissioner Mark Hurt stated that the way to correct the line of sight would be difficult.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he was not comfortable approving not putting stop signs at the intersection.

Commissioner Michele Dillon stated that traffic is now stopping at the stop signs as accidents have not occurred recently.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that he was okay moving forward with the item.

Commissioner Kathryn Schartz concurred.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan concurred and asked for a future update on crash reports.

David Cronin said that staff could check on crashes and sight distance.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about MPO bike and pedestrian crash history.

Public Comment – No public Comment

[Moved by Commissioner Ziegelmeier, second by Commissioner Hamby](#), to recommend that the request of a 4-way STOP at 10th and Indiana Street be denied. The motion carried, 9-1. Commissioner Steve Evans opposed.

ITEM NO. 6:

[Complete Streets Discussion](#)

Commissioner Charlie Bryan spoke on the Complete Streets Workshop and initiated a discussion on reviewing the existing complete streets policy.

Commissioner David Hamby stated that the policy should be looked at and reviewed but it needs to have input from the community to be successful.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan concurred and stated that the policy gives staff a clear direction.

Commissioner Steve Evans stated that he would be happy to be involved in process of updating the existing policy.

Commissioner Jeff Severin stated that it would be good to look at successful communities and compare policies with them.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan spoke on an assessment of policies and their scoring.

Commissioner Chris Storm stated that the policy is not the problem but that getting traction can be difficult.

Commissioner Steve Evans concurred. He asked about Kasold Drive and complete streets.

David Cronin stated that both design options had complete street elements.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan stated that this item was only discussed in relation to projects. He spoke about the progress made with sidewalk installation along Iowa Street. He asked about progress that has been made and looking at what can be done to make future progress.

Commissioner Steve Evans talked about the complete streets design street and how it related to budget.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about forming a committee to review the policy.

Commissioner Kathlyn Schartz stated that complete streets items should be applied if appropriate every time that road construction was proposed.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan said that the City Commission could look to the Transportation Commission along with support from staff on the complete streets process.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan concurred. He would like to get City Commission input and include their goals. He asked for volunteers for a subcommittee.

Commissioner Michele Dillon, Commissioner Steve Evans, and Commissioner Kathlyn Schartz volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

[Moved by Commissioner Hamby, second by Commissioner Severin](#), to form a complete streets policy subcommittee with Commissioners Michele Dillon, Steve Evans, and Kathlyn Schartz. The motion carried, 10-0.

ITEM NO. 7:

Receive staff reports:

- A. [Receive staff report on collector streets that only meets the Traffic Calming Policy criteria 3.D.](#)

Staff Presentation:

Zach Baker gave a presentation on collector streets. He spoke on collector streets with low vehicle volumes and residential driveways fronting the collector street. Collector streets were broken into segments with five not meeting local street volume with residential frontage.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Chris Storm asked about the N/A shown in the report.

Zach Baker stated that traffic volumes were well above local volumes for these streets.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan thanked Zach Baker.

- B. [Receive follow up information regarding conflicts of interest.](#)

Staff Presentation:

David Cronin asked Randy Larkin about conflicts of interests. Transportation Commissioners are subject to conflicts of interest rules. City staff can answer any questions if they come up.

- C. [Receive Manhattan, KS Ordinance on hands free device.](#)

Staff Presentation:

David Cronin gave a presentation on the Manhattan hands free device ordinance that is attached. No bill has been introduced since 2010 in the Kansas House or Senate.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked about how the ordinance worked in Manhattan and if they had any data available. He asked about having the police department presenting on how they view Manhattan's ordinance and if it would make sense for the city of Lawrence adopt.

Commissioner Steve Evans asked if this was the right conduit to take on this issue.

David Cronin stated that it was appropriate to study and make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Commissioner Chris Storm asked about the state law about texting while driving.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked if the Police Department could follow up with a report.

ITEM NO. 8:

[Commission Items:](#)

No items

ITEM NO. 9:

[Calendar](#)

Bicycle Friendly Driver Program; Wednesday July 19th Noon-1p

Study Session Budget and Transit Operations; Thursday July 13th Noon-1:30p

ITEM NO. 10:

[Adjournment](#)

Moved by Commissioner Hamby, and second by Storm, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried, 10-0.