

City of Lawrence

Transportation Commission

June 5, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Bryan, David Hamby, Chris Storm, Mark Hurt, Steve Evans, John Ziegelmeyer, Erin Paden, Michele Dillon, Ron May

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Severin, Kathryn Schartz

STAFF PRESENT: David Cronin, Public Works Department
Charles Soules, Public Works Department
Zach Baker, Public Works Department
Abigail Bradshaw, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Nicole Allensworth, Carol Bowen, Brendy Latore, Rachel Haden, Gary Webber

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 May 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Moved by Commissioner Hurt, second by Commissioner Paden](#), to approve minutes. The motion carried, 7-0. Commissioners Storm and May arrived after minutes approval vote.

ITEM NO. 2

[General Public Comment](#)

Public Discussion:

[Nicole Allensworth](#), played a news video about the dangers of texting and driving. This video was about her personal experience with a car accident where someone had been texting and driving. Ms. Allensworth stated her intention to bring this issue up to the city commission as well. She said Manhattan, KS has already passed stricter cell phone use driving laws and has

seen traffic accident improvements. She brought a petition for anyone present to sign advocating stricter driving laws on texting.

[Carol Bowen](#), gave her input on what she thinks this transportation commission should be reviewing. She stated that the old traffic safety commission was more of a technical body that reviewed engineering recommendations. The planning commission dealt with more large scale and new development projects; therefore, more established neighborhood concerns really didn't have an appropriate commission to report to. She is excited that this commission has been formed and she hopes they will look more into the needs of neighborhoods.

[Brendy Latare](#), lives at 18th & Mississippi. Traffic circles are currently being constructed in her neighborhood. She has a request for the 18th & Indiana intersection. She is concerned about the existing stop signs being removed at this intersection. She has a son who is blind that walks to school to Lawrence High to the south. The safest route for him to get to school is to cross Indiana Street at 18th Street so that he can navigate to Louisiana Street where there are audible traffic signals that are safer for him to use and cross the busy 19th Street to get to school. Her concern is that by removing the 4-way stop signs from the 18th & Indiana intersection, her son will be more at risk.

[Racheal Haden](#), is the Lawrence School District's teacher for the visually impaired. She has worked with the specifics of blind people crossing intersections. She reiterated that crossing with just hearing at traffic circles are more difficult. It would no longer be a controlled intersection and it would raise the risk of her student being injured. She also pointed out that cars are quieter now which makes it harder for her student to hear them entering an intersection.

[Commissioner Hurt](#): Asked what is at the 18th & Indiana intersection now and what is proposed? David Cronin stated the existing conditions for that intersection is a 4-way stop with a very low-tech temporary traffic calming circle. The intersection is currently being constructed as a new traffic calming circle with no stop signs. Hurt asked what year the student was. He is a Senior this upcoming year.

[Gary Webber](#), is a facilitator for the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition (PedCo). Wanted to update the transportation commission about an initiative PEDCO will be bringing up to the city commission on June 13th and June 20th meetings. He gave a presentation about sidewalk repair policy and funding associated with that. PedCo wishes to encourage the city commission to renew the infrastructure sales tax that will expire next year and for them to earmark money from that fund for sidewalk repair.

[Tim Phillips](#), also wished to advocate for the stop signs to remain at the 18th & Indiana intersection with the traffic calming circles.

ITEM NO. 3:

[Project Presentation](#)

[Queens Road, 6th Street to Eisenhower Drive](#)

Jason Hoskinson with BG Consultants who are designing this project gave a presentation on this project.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Steve Evans asked what is the proposed city budget for this project. Chuck Soules stated the current estimate for the project is \$4.8 million and the current proposal is that the city will pay for \$350,000 of that cost and the remaining cost will be paid for through a benefit district. Evans asked if staff has updated our estimates since the conceptual stage and if when we go to bid, is the contingency built in. Jason Hoskinson explained that estimates are kept current throughout the design process base on recent unit bid prices for other projects in the area.

Commissioner Hurt asked who is the benefit districts in this area. Chuck Soules stated the benefit districts are the developments on both the west and east sides of the proposed new Queens Road from 6th Street to Eisenhower Drive. There is also a benefit district on the south side of 6th Street at the intersection.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked what the proposed speed limit would be? The design of the road is for 40 mph but the plan is to post a 35 mph speed limit. Charlie Bryan asked if it is standard practice to design for 40 mph and then post for 35 mph. It is common practice to design for 5 mph over the posted speed limit. Charlie asked what the city's portion of the funding is paying for. Chuck Soules stated there is a city policy that sets a standard width and street design with sidewalks on both sides that a benefit district would pay for. With this Queens Road project the street width and the sidewalks/shared-use path will be wider than what that standard street section is spelled out in the policy. The city will pay for the extra costs associated with those added widths. Charlie Bryan asked if the city's contribution for this project of \$350,000 come out of the Bike/PED funds. Chuck Soules stated that topic will be covered in the next agenda item. Charlie asked what will be the proposed bike lane widths. David Cronin stated 5-foot bike lanes are proposed.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked on behalf of Commissioner Jeff Severin, who could not attend the meeting, about a sidewalk gap on Overland Drive. He asked if this be addressed with this project. David Cronin stated this project will tie-in to existing infrastructure and resolve a current sidewalk gap.

Public Discussion:

Carol Bowen asked where pedestrians cross the streets. Jason Hoskinson showed a project plan diagram to illustrate the proposed pedestrian crossings throughout the project.

Commissioner Storm asked where the shared-use path ends with this project and would it connect to Rock Chalk Park Trail or the Baldwin Creek Trail. Chuck Soules answered that future plans could include extensions to those trails with annexation of county property, but at this time no connection is being made.

ITEM NO. 4

Staff Presentation

2017 Bike/Ped Funding Priorities

Staff presentation: Chuck Soules outlined potential projects that could be built with the \$450,000 budgeted for 2017 Bike/PED Funding priorities.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked what the timeline is for the transportation commission to provide a recommendation on which projects to start with. Chuck Soules stated a recommendation did not necessarily need to happen tonight, but sooner rather than later because citizens are inquiring about what we will be doing with that money. Chuck also stated that it is a possibility that the city commission may decide to tap this \$450,000 to fund the bike/ped portion of the Queens Road project which does not yet have a funding source.

Commissioner Hurt asked if there is ped/bike dedicated for specifically for maintenance. Chuck Soules answered the \$450,000 is not divided into new construction and maintenance. The amount can cover anything. So the transportation commission needs to decide how much of that money needs allocated for which item new or old.

Commissioner Evans asked when the ADA ramps around town that do not meet compliance where installed, where they in compliance at the time of installation? Chuck Soules stated that whenever a new ramp is installed it is built to the current code at that time. Over the years codes have changed so there is a wide range of ramps that are no longer considered ADA compliant now.

Commissioner Storm asked of the 53% of ramps that are out of ADA compliance, are those including ramps that are only not up to code because the detectable warning surface requirements have changed? Chuck Soules stated he believed the 53% figure represents ramps that have more vertical grade percentage issues or cross slopes.

Commissioner Storm stated he thought that when we are discussing getting the biggest bang for our buck in utilizing this funding, Safe Routes To School (SRTS) projects would be a good priority for this money. Essentially helping a portion of the population that requires more help getting from point A to point B.

Commissioner Hurt asked if we're getting any federal match for SRTS. David Cronin answered we do have a federal match for SRTS for this year where the federal/city match for the project is 90%/10% of the project cost.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked how much additional funding would be needed to for the SRTS from the \$450,000. David Cronin answered that the current SRTS project being designed has a city match that was budgeted with 2016 funds. The conversation for tonight would be how much money would we want to allocate for TA projects or SRTS projects for next year.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked what action city staff is wanting from the transportation commission at this time. Chuck Soules stated staff would like a recommendation for which types of projects the commission would like the \$450,000 spent on, not necessarily specific projects at this time.

Commissioner Mark Hurt asked if it would be useful to provide a recommendation to the city commission to not raid the \$450,000 to fund the Queens Road project that will be discussed tomorrow 6/6/17. Chuck Soules stated that would be good information for the city commission to consider.

Commissioner Hamby stated he thinks it is important to know if they will be dealing with the full \$450,000 dollars or just \$100,000 depending on the city commission's decision about Queens Road funding before the transportation commission makes any decisions on prioritizing other projects.

Public Comment – No public Comment

Moved by Commissioner Hurt, second by Commissioner Haden, to recommend the Queens Road project not be funded with the 2017 Bike/Ped Funding. The motion carried, 9-0.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer requested the commission prioritize SRTS.

Commissioner David Hamby requested sidewalk gaps be prioritized.

Commissioner Erin Paden requested the 21st Street Bike Boulevard project be prioritized.

The transportation commissioners decided to wait for the city commission's decision on Queen's Road project funding on the 6/6/17 city commission meeting. With that information, staff can put together more details and recommendations for projects for the July/August transportation commission meetings after we know exactly the dollars we will have.

ITEM NO. 5:

Commission Items

Commissioner David Hamby stated BG Consultants are doing a Lawrence Loop Alignment Study and will be hosting an open house to the public at the Lawrence Public Library on June 12, 2017 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. They will be presenting on potential alignments to close the two remaining gaps in the Lawrence Loop.

Commissioner Evans discussed potential conflicts of interest regarding commissioners living in areas where some of these traffic requests are coming from.

Commissioner Evans asked if he could see some more of the engineering technical documents that would be applicable to some of the transportation commission item requests. For example, documents like the MUTCD or ADA guidelines for visually impaired.

Commissioner Michele Dillon stated she sees things from a social work standpoint. She sees the

visually impaired student walking to school every day. She advocates for leaving the stop signs at the intersection of 18th & Indiana.

Commissioner Hurt asked when the 18th & Indiana traffic circle construction be completed and accepted. David Cronin stated completion is expected by the end of August. Commissioner Hurt stated that the current configuration was a traffic calming device paired with stop signs. Once construction is finished there will essentially be the same conditions with a traffic calming circle and stops signs (if we leave the signs in).

Chuck Soules provided more information for consideration. He stated the city is moving forward with the construction of the traffic circles per requests from the neighborhood. Substantial money is being spent for the construction of the traffic circles. A question the city commission may ask is, why did we spend money for the traffic circles if what is now wanted are stop signs that could have been installed at a much lower cost?

A citizen from the audience stated that the neighborhood was essentially given a choice of building the new traffic circles or leaving the intersections the way they have been the last dozen years with the temporary traffic calming devices in the middle of the intersections with stop signs. The neighborhood did not want to keep the current configuration so they voted to approve the construction of the new traffic circles with the understanding that later if they had concerns about the intersections they could come back and present those concerns to the commission.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan stated the transportation commission will bring the 18th & Indiana item back for discussion at the July 10th, 2017 transportation commission meeting.

Commissioner Zeigelmeyer stated he believed advisory boards are not subject to conflict of interest policies because they are not policy making bodies. He asked staff to check with the city attorney to verify if that was correct.

Commissioner Charlie Bryan asked for a copy of Manhattan's ordinance about texting to better understand how their policy works. Also would like any information at the state level for policies on texting and driving for the transportation commission to review.

ITEM NO. 6:

[Calendar](#)

- a. Study Session June 8, 2017 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- b. Next Meeting Monday July 10, 2017 6:00 PM

ITEM NO. 7:

[Adjournment](#)

Moved by Commissioner Zeigelmeyer, and second by Hamby, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried, 9-0.