

City of Lawrence
Traffic Safety Commission
October 3, 2016 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Storm, Chair; Steven Koprince, Vice-Chair; Dave Crawford; Ryan Devlin; Travis Harrod; Jason Hoskinson; Tony Jones; and, John Ziegelmeyer, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: David Woosley, Public Works Department

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sharon Ashworth, Diane Menzie, Bob Schumm, Mack McLendon, Robert Johnson, Shari Johnson, Michael Almon, Wesley Smith, and, Scott Zaremba

The meeting was called to order by Chris Storm 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, August 1, 2016.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KOPRINCE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING, AUGUST 1, 2016; THE MOTION CARRIED, 6-0-2.

ITEM NO. 2:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING along the west side of Tennessee Street, north of 18th Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

Sharon Ashworth, 1714 Mississippi Street: We really appreciate that new sidewalk spur and the new crossing area, it lessens the crossing length across the street and we no longer have to wait right aside the traffic; I'm here to support the No Parking just north of the intersection, just because it gives a little more sight distance; we have short people crossing that road a lot of times and we often have to lean-out into traffic to see the traffic coming down Tennessee; having No Parking there would be really appreciated.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Devlin asked if there had been a study of how often vehicles are parked in the area; Woosley advised that there had not been any studies.

Commissioner Hoskinson: I think it is a reasonable request; traffic should be parked away from an intersection for safety purposes.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOSKINSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING NO PARKING ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF TENNESSEE STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 85 FEET NORTH OF 18TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request for TRAFFIC CALMING on North Street between 5th Street and 7th Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report.

Public Comments:

Diane Menzie, 509 North Street: We really need a calming device there; there are a couple of people that don't want it near their home, I don't care if it is near my home, and, three of my neighbors don't care if it is near their home; we've had a number of animals hit and killed; so far, we haven't had any children injured; there are no sidewalks on North Street, and, it is barely wide enough for two vehicles; it's nothing to see a 60 mile an hour vehicle running down there; so, we would prefer to have a traffic calming device.

Commission Discussion:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KOPRINCE, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF TRAFFIC CALMING ON NORTH STREET BETWEEN 5TH STREET AND 7TH STREET; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 4:

Consider request for NO PARKING along St. Andrews Drive from Bob Billings Parkway to a point approximately 790 feet south of the centerline of Seminole Drive.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted receipt of additional correspondence.

Public Comments:

Bob Schumm, 1720 St. Andrews Drive: We never had a parking problem until KU took over one of the buildings; this afternoon I counted 11 cars parked in the area; sometimes only one car can get through at a time; the whole thing could be solved if people working in the neighborhood parked in the parking provided, but, I don't know how you get them to do that; the safety issue for our neighborhood is pretty important to us.

Bob Schumm read a statement provided by Kathleen Hodge, adjacent property owner: The cars parked on the east side of St. Andrews Drive between Seminole and Bob Billings are a safety hazard. I'm a business property owner of the Alvamar Professional Building, 1611 St. Andrews; our employees have complained about visibility problems and said this should be a No Parking zone; I agree; thank you.

Mack McLendon, 1621 St. Andrews Drive: My wife and I believe that it should be No Parking on either side of the street, from 8 to 5, Monday through Friday; safety is one of the major reasons for this; when you are coming up the hill, with cars parked on the east side of the street, you cannot see anybody coming at you; people speed on that street quite a bit; yesterday, I there were two going at least 50 miles per hour.

Robert Johnson, 1616 St. Andrews Drive: I concur very much with what Bob said; now that KU has moved-in, they have brought a lot more traffic and a lot more parking; they park on both sides of the street; there is plenty of off-street parking in the area.

Shari Johnson, 1616 St. Andrews Drive: We are very much in favor of this being a daytime only restriction, because we have no problems in the evening; it is all brought about by the University; if it's 24 hours a day, then, it's punishing us.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Harrod: I office in the Alvamar Building and I have noticed what the speakers have been talking about; I do think there's a need to clean that up.

Commissioner Devlin: That street is not wide enough to accommodate the parking; visibility is an issue and the hill presents an issue too.

Commissioner Crawford: I would just like to mention when you have a street with no parking, you may have more speeding.

Commissioner Koprince: This request may exacerbate the speeding, but, help the visibility problem; I would recommend approving the request if it is the will of the neighborhood.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ZIEGELMEYER, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING NO PARKING 8AM-5PM MON-FRI ALONG BOTH SIDES OF ST. ANDREWS DRIVE FROM BOB BILLINGS PARKWAY TO A POINT 790 FEET SOUTH OF THE CENTERLINE OF SEMINOLE DRIVE; THE MOTION CARRIED, 7-0-1.

ITEM NO. 5:

Consider request to CLOSE Haskell Lane at 29th Street.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted receipt of additional correspondence supporting the request.

Public Comment:

Michael Almon, 1311 Prairie Avenue: This year, the City Commission, decided to build a connection of the "Lawrence Loop" along 29th Street, to connect the south end of the Burroughs Creek Trail with the South Lawrence Trafficway Shared-Use Path; the trouble is where the Lawrence Loop crosses Haskell Lane; that is why we proposed that the north end of Haskell Lane be permanently closed for the safety of bicyclists, when the bicycle track is completed; businesses will still be able to enter and exit the area from the arterial, 31st Street; we feel it is a bicycle and pedestrian safety issue.

Wesley Smith, 900 Massachusetts Street, Suite 500: attorney representing Kevin & Lisa Fredrickson, owners of Eagle Trailer Company, 920 E. 30th Street: They are very much against any closure of Haskell Lane; the traffic will decrease once the South Lawrence Trafficway is opened; it is premature to use a traffic count before the SLT opens; Capital City Oil is used by all the County vehicles; the Trail came after the design of this area was approved.

Bob Schumm, 1720 St. Andrews Drive: As a bicycle enthusiast, I don't know what the right solution is, one has been presented, but, there may be another one, so, my request would simply be to look at all the alternatives and try to come up with something that works; this intersection is cause for concern and needs to be looked at and handled properly; I don't know what the solutions is, but, you're going to see a lot more bicycle traffic as soon as it opens up.

Scott Zaremba, 718 E. 1300 Road: Putting all the traffic down to the south makes it extremely dangerous to get in and out of there; we are working on developing this entire area, which will change all the access points and have safer interactions; all I ask is that we table this for now, until we're able to develop this area.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Harrod: I would like to hear from the County as to how this closure would affect their operations.

Commissioner Ziegelmeyer: I would like to hear from Emergency Services as to how this closure would affect their operations.

Commissioner Storm asked when the Trail would be constructed; Almon advised that it should be this fall.

Commissioner Devlin: I'm inclined to believe that until we hear from the other businesses and until we get a good, solid indication of how this is going to impact our emergency personnel, I'm inclined to believe that we should table this until we have a better idea from the developers and we get an idea from our 911 response personnel.

Commissioner Koprince: I think closing a road is a pretty drastic measure; I don't think we have enough facts at this time; I agree that this is premature.

Commissioner Storm: I think when everything's opened up, people will learn the right way of doing things; I think traffic will drastically change in this area and we really have to see what will happen; I think we should wait and see how things change.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEVLIN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD, TO TABLE THE REQUEST FOR 6 MONTHS; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.

ITEM NO. 6:

Public Comment.

No Public Comment.

ITEM NO. 7:

Commission Items.

No Commission items.

ITEM NO. 8:

Staff Items:

Woosley updated the Commission on the status of a Transportation Commission, replacing the Traffic Safety Commission and the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Woosley updated the Commission on correspondence concerning a request for No Parking along Elm Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Monday, November 7, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Woosley

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

TO: City of Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission

FROM: Gordon & Karen Abernathy, 1530 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047

DATE: September 26, 2016

RE: October 3, 2016 Agenda

Item No. 4: Consider request to establish NO PARKING along St. Andrews Drive from Bob Billings Parkway to a point approximately 790 feet south of the centerline of Seminole Drive.

We live just a half block south of the intersection of Seminole Drive and St. Andrews Drive. We have seen this parking problem evolve ever since KU bought the property at the corner of Bob Billings and St. Andrews Drive. Although the KU building has ample parking available in their parking lots for all their employees and the users of the building, they charge a fee for parking and their employees and users opt for on-street parking to avoid paying the fee. If this request is granted, then those people will move south on St. Andrews for their parking, thus creating a problem for those of us who live on St. Andrews, interfering with mail delivery as well as creating an eyesore and creating unwanted and unnecessary congestion in a pleasant residential area. I submit that the parking problem is KU's problem and that they should cooperate with you to arrive at a solution other than on-street parking.

If this request is granted, then I would request that it be extended to prohibit on-street parking on St. Andrews Drive from Bob Billings Parkway to Tam-O-Shanter Drive.

We need to be gone from the City on October 3rd so we cannot appear and voice our concerns. I hope this memo will serve to voice our strong concern.

David Woosley

From: Sandy Praeger <sandy21@sunflower.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 2:14 PM
To: David Woosley
Subject: Parking item on the Oct. 3 agenda

Traffic safety commissioners:

I noticed that you are considering an item to remove parking on a portion of St. Andrews Dr. adjacent to KU Continuing Ed building (the old Maupintour Headquarters). It is my understanding that when KU moved some of their continuing education services to the Regents campus in Johnson County other services were moved to this location. Since that time there have been numerous cars parked on the east side of St. Andrews, up to 10 or 12 at a time. It does create a vision problem as this is on a curve and for cars traveling north towards Bob Billings Parkway they can't always see as they move out into the southbound lane to get passed these parked cars.

I know you cannot require the KU administration to take action to require these individuals to buy a KU parking pass so they can park in the KU lot associated with the continuing ed office. There is ample parking in their lot. That would be the best solution so that occasional parking might still be allowed on St. Andrews. But absent that the best solution is the one under consideration, to post no parking signs and enforce the restriction on that stretch of St. Andrews. On to the south is another KU facility which also has employees or students parking on the street. In this area they are often on both sides of St. Andrews which causes some congestion. The sight distances here are not the same problem as the area further to the north. It is, however, a residential area and having these cars parked on the street in both locations is not compatible with the residential traffic.

I hope you will recommend that no parking be posted and enforced along St. Andrews in the area under review.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this agenda item.

Sincerely,

Sandy Praeger
3601 Quail Creek Court
Lawrence, Kansas 66047
785-841-3554

David Woosley

From: David Hamby [<mailto:davidhamby2000@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:40 AM

To: David Woosley

Subject: TSC, Item 5 - October 3, 2016 Agenda

David & Members of the Traffic Safety Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the closure of Haskell Lane at 29th Street. As a current member of the Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee and a former member of the Traffic Safety Commission it is important to me that we recognize and discuss concerns that are brought before our advisory boards. The letter from the Sustainability Action Network points out a concern with traffic using Haskell Lane as a cut-through street instead of remaining on the main thoroughfare of Haskell Avenue. When cut-through traffic occurs, it can create numerous negative side effects. One of those side effects in this area is the conflict between bicycles and vehicles. I have ridden my bicycle along 29th Street many times and the intersection with Haskell Lane/29th Street/Haskell Avenue can be a challenge with the large amount of cut-through traffic. With the proposed construction of the bicycle track along 29th Street, this area will become even more heavily congested with bicycle movements. I request that you consider supporting the closure of Haskell Lane at 29th Street. Thank you for your service.

David Hamby
2329 Brett Drive

David Woosley

From: Robert Dinsdale [<mailto:rcdins@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:52 AM

To: David Woosley

Subject: closure of haskell lane at 29th

I support the proposed closure. thank you. Robert C. Dinsdale

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rcdins@gmail.com

David Woosley

From: Emily Mulligan <emulligan10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 6:32 PM
To: David Woosley
Subject: 18th and Tennessee

Hello, Mr. Woosley.

I am unable to attend the Traffic Safety Commission meeting tonight. I would have been there in support of the parking changes proposed for 18th and Tenn. streets. I wanted to also mention and suggest that there be a crosswalk painted on the street, with an accompanying "Children Crossing" sign. The curb cuts and ramp were installed, and at the moment they look like a walkway to nowhere, because there is no other indication to traffic that people would be crossing the street there. We have many elementary and middle school students who cross there, as well as KU students and staff. In an ideal world, there would be a crosswalk like the one at 18th and Kentucky, but that is probably a larger budget discussion than would be covered tonight. But, is that a possibility at some point?

Again, thank you for at least addressing the parking at the intersection. I hope you and the commission will consider the other additions at some point, as well.

Best,
Emily Mulligan
1616 Indiana St.
(785) 691-9362