

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 3, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Sterling Atkins, 1109 North Harvey Street
Edward "Jim" Silha, 1407 Ogelthorpe Avenue

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the September 2006 meeting.

Item #1 - Discussion of traffic study at Eads Street.

Joe Smith reviewed the results of the traffic study conducted on Eads Street from Thursday, September 28 through Tuesday, October 3, 2006. Mr. Smith stated that there were 3555 vehicles using Eads Street during that time period. He reported that the average speed was 26.66 miles per hour; 85 percent of the motorists were traveling 32.2 miles per hour or slower; and the maximum speed was 55 miles per hour. Mr. Smith pointed out that the vehicle traveling at that speed was a motorcycle traveling on Eads around noon on Saturday, September 30.

Chief Bily stated that random speeding was difficult to ticket.

Joe Smith said that the speeds on Eads Street were normal when compared to other residential streets in Urbana.

Dennis Roberts mentioned that the installation of stop signs was mentioned at the last meeting.

Joe Smith stated that stop signs were not warranted. He added that the City does not install stop signs to slow traffic and that stop signs were used to indicate right of way at intersections.

Mike Bily asked if there was a specific time frame when speeding occurred.

Mr. Smith said that the time frame of 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. was when violations seemed worse.

Chief Bily recommended assigning STEP enforcement to that area during those hours. He added that the result of the detail would be given to the Traffic Commission.

Sterling Atkins said that he noticed that traffic slowed down when the equipment was set on the street.

No further action will be taken on this item.

Item #2- Discussion of traffic study at Washington Street and Smith Road.

Joe Smith discussed the result of traffic counts taken on Tuesday, September 26 and Wednesday, September 27, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the intersection of Washington Street and Smith Road. He noted that the study was conducted to determine whether or not three-way stop signs were to be installed at the intersection. As a result of the study, Mr. Smith stated that the traffic volume on Smith Road did not warrant the installation of stop signs on Washington Street. He added that there was a stop sign on Smith Road at Washington Street.

Mr. Smith said that studies would be conducted at other areas on Smith Road and the results of those studies would be discussed at future meetings.

Jim Silha stated that more traffic was traveling on Smith Road since construction work had closed Colorado Avenue and restricted traffic flow on Philo Road.

Joe Smith said that some motorists increase their speed to reduce the delay incurred from the detour.

Mr. Silha asked if the Traffic Commission would limit parking on Rainbow View, east of Smith Road. He noted that motorists were parking on both sides of the street restricting the flow of two-way traffic.

Joe Smith recommended adding this item to the November Traffic Commission agenda.

The Commission discussed other items to be placed on the November Traffic Commission agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

The next meeting will be held November 7, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary