

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, December 4, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, Urbana Council Member  
Joe Smith, Senior City Engineer  
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rex Mundt, Fire and Rescue Services Chief  
Mary Lee Brady, 505 East Washington Street  
Meg Grady, 801 East Washington Street  
Troy Richmond, 1104 North Division Street  
James McCall, 1011 North Division Street

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There was one addition to the agenda:

Discussion of the installation of "No Parking on Bridge" signs on the east side of Gregory Street over the Boneyard Creek.

**Approval of the minutes:**

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of November 2001.

**Item #1 - Discussion of the one-way traffic plan for Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.**

Joe Smith stated that he sent letters to the residents on Michigan Avenue asking for input on the changes made to traffic flow on Michigan Avenue on the south side of the Urbana Middle School where traffic moves one way in the morning before school begins. He said that he received no feedback from the residents. Mr. Smith recommended leaving the traffic plan as is

with traffic flowing one-way in the morning while students are arriving at school and in the afternoon when students are leaving school.

**Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of a “Blind Child at Play” sign on Eastern Drive.**

Joe Smith recommended placing this item on the pending item list. He also recommended asking the City Arborist to discuss possible solutions with the homeowner at 1201 Eastern Drive to eliminate a visibility hazard created by a bush on the property.

**Item #3 - Discussion of one-way traffic flow on Division Street.**

Troy Richman stated that he met with Fire Chief Mundt to discuss the addition of gates at Lakeside Terrace.

Chief Mundt stated that he would like to meet with the Housing Authority to discuss the addition of gates at Lakeside Terrace. He stated that the Fire Department might consider the possibility of approving gates if they can operate the gates with Opticom.

Milton Otto asked if ambulances and police cars were equipped with Opticom.

Chief Mundt stated that they were not.

Joe Smith stated that the study he conducted showed an average speed of 22 m.p.h. and 10 of 450 vehicles traveling over 30 m.p.h. He said that speeding was not a problem.

Eddie Adair stated that he conducted speed enforcement and noted that some motorists were speeding on the north end of Division Street but not near Lakeside Terrace. He suggested talking to the Housing Authority. He questioned who would assume the cost of equipping police vehicles with Opticom if a gate was installed at Lakeside Terrace.

Troy Richman stated that the Housing Authority was interested in sharing costs. He added that the gate at Lakeside Terrace would shift traffic from Division Street to Broadway Avenue. He said that he believed that gate would stop anyone causing trouble.

Rex Mundt stated that with the gate the Police Department would not be able to respond as quickly to an emergency if they were located on the opposite side of the fence from where an emergency occurred.

Milton Otto suggested that the Police Chief and Fire Chief talk to Pat Stebbins from the Housing Authority to discuss the feasibility of installing a gate at Lakeside Terrace.

Joe Smith stated that the City Arborist would be contacted to discuss possible alternatives to the bush growing at the corner of Division Street and Kerr Avenue. He said that the Arborist could meet with the homeowner to install appropriate ground cover that would not interfere with visibility. Mr. Smith responded to a request for a "No Turn on Red" sign for southbound traffic on Cunningham Avenue at Kerr Avenue. He stated that the city would recommend that type of signage in situations where there was a visibility problem or many pedestrians were crossing at the intersection. Since neither condition existed, Mr. Smith stated that the Engineering Division would not recommend the installation of a "No Turn on Red" sign at Cunningham Avenue and Kerr Avenue. In response to a request for stop signs at Kerr Avenue and Division Street, Mr. Smith said that he looked at the accident reports for that intersection from 1998 to 2001. Considering the fact that one accident occurred during that time, he would not recommend the installation of additional stop signs. He recommended the installation of a warning sign to indicate an intersection at the top of the hill on Kerr Avenue, west of Highland Avenue. Mr. Smith stated that he discussed the possibility of one-way traffic on Division Street with Public Works staff. He said that Public Works staff would not recommend one-way traffic because there was not sufficient support from the neighborhood.

Joe Smith moved to install a warning sign on Kerr Avenue west of Highland Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The Traffic Commission will discuss the results of the meeting among the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the Housing Authority at its February meeting.

**Item #4- Discussion of traffic on Washington Street between Philo Road and Vine Street.**

Joe Smith stated that he was unable to put counters out on Washington Street due to a request to use them on another project. He said that he would put the counters on Washington Street this week and send the results to Ms. Grady.

Meg Grady asked if the counters could be placed near Anderson Street on Washington Street since she believed that speeding was worse there.

Eddie Adair stated that the Police Department would monitor the situation and report at the next meeting.

Mary Lee Brady stated that she was concerned about speeds at night.

Milton Otto stated the City would place speed monitors in the street to pinpoint when speeding occurred. He said that STEP enforcement would enforce speed during the time when speeding seemed to be prevalent to try to solve the problem.

Meg Grady asked about using a speed board to regulate traffic speeds.

Eddie Adair stated that the Police Department had ordered the board and would use it once it arrived.

Milton Otto stated that the City would conduct traffic counts and perform STEP enforcement in January.

Eddie Adair stated that there would be an increase in police presence in the area.

**Item #5- Discussion of parking restrictions on the south side of Main Street between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.**

Joe Smith stated that the meters on the south side of Main Street had been removed as part of the construction project at the Champaign County Courthouse. Mr. Smith said that according to City Code of Ordinances, the Mayor has the authority to establish meter zones. He asked that the Traffic Commission recommend to the Mayor that the meter zone be removed from the south side of Main Street from Vine Street to 100 feet east of Broadway Avenue for a drop-off for MTD and taxis. He stated that part of a parking agreement between the City and the County allowed meters to be installed in the parking lot along Vine Street to compensate for the loss of revenue from the removal of the meters on the street.

Joe Smith moved to install "No Parking on This Side of Street" signs on the south side of Main Street from Vine Street to 100 feet east of Broadway Avenue.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item goes to Council for consideration.

**Item #6 - Discussion of pedestrian crossing on Green Street between Daniels Hall and Illinois Street Residence Hall, west of Lincoln Avenue.**

Joe Smith stated that different divisions of the University of Illinois were discussing the relocation of the pedestrian crossing on Green Street. He recommended that the Traffic Commission wait until the University gives direction to the Commission on the University's preferences.

Mr. Smith asked that the Traffic Commission table the issue until February.

**Item #7 - Discussion of the installation of "No Parking on Bridge" signs on the east side of Gregory Street on the bridge over the Boneyard Creek.**

Joe Smith discussed an incident where a motorist saw a gap in metered spaces where there was no meter and no signs indicating that parking was not allowed. Mr. Smith continued by stating that the motorist received a ticket based on an ordinance that states that one cannot park at an unmetred space in a meter zone. He said that the motorist was concerned about the lack of signage at that space.

Joe Smith moved to install "No Parking on Bridge" signage on the east side of Gregory Street where it crossed the Boneyard Creek.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 p.m.

There will be no Traffic Commission meeting in January. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 5, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary