

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 6, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

Bill Gray, City Engineer for Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Supervisor

Bill Meier, 806 West Michigan Avenue

Mindy Meier, 2401 Peppertree Place, Champaign

Marillia Majercak, 2418 Nottingham Court, Champaign

Dean Papajohn, 1004 East Mumford Drive

The meeting began at 4:20 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There were no additions.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes as read. Bill Gray seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of July 2002.

**Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at Michigan Avenue.**

Pastor Bill Meier discussed his concerns about students and community members from their church crossing Lincoln Avenue while traveling to and from parking lots on the west side of Lincoln Avenue to the Twin City Bible Church on the east side. Pastor Meier stated that the church tried to hire an off-duty police officer to provide traffic control while church members were crossing the street, but the officer stated that he could not stop traffic at the intersection unless there was a crosswalk painted on the street. Pastor Meier requested the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at either the Michigan Avenue or Indiana Avenue intersections.

He asked about the possibility of adding flashing amber lights to the signage. Pastor Meier noted that most pedestrian traffic crossed Lincoln Avenue on Sunday mornings between 8:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and that there was some pedestrian traffic on Wednesday evenings.

Eddie Adair asked for an average number of pedestrians that cross Lincoln Avenue on Wednesday evenings.

Pastor Meier responded that approximately 50 to 60 people attended Wednesday evening programs.

Dean Papajohn stated that the safety issue was important to the church. He stated that members were encouraged to park in lots on the west side of Lincoln Avenue to avoid causing congestion in the residential areas surrounding the church.

Bill Gray stated that the Traffic Commission had discussed this issue approximately two years ago. He said that staff would look at traffic patterns again. He noted that the stop signs at Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue and at Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street did not provide the necessary gaps in vehicular traffic to allow pedestrians the opportunities to easily cross Lincoln Avenue. He added that signals are planned for those two intersections but would not be installed until at least 2005. Mr. Gray indicated that pedestrian warning signage was added to Lincoln Avenue to the south of Nevada Avenue for southbound traffic and to the south of Michigan Avenue for northbound traffic to warn of pedestrians crossing Lincoln Avenue.

Pastor Meier asked if the placement of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue would allow an off-duty officer the authority to stop motorists on Lincoln Avenue.

Mr. Gray suggested placing buckets filled with red flags that pedestrians could pick up on one side of the street and place in the bucket on the other side of the street to make them more visible to traffic on Lincoln Avenue. He said that this idea had been successful in Salt Lake City.

He added that the volume of pedestrian traffic would not warrant the installation of a stop sign or crosswalk at the intersection.

Chief Adair stated that there was only one accident at that intersection within the last three years.

Bill Gray wondered if pedestrians would cross at Michigan Avenue even if a crosswalk were installed. He added that at the present time, some of the pedestrians cross at the McKinley Health Center driveway and some cross at Michigan Avenue. He said he would meet with City staff to discuss solutions and let Pastor Meier know of their findings.

Chief Adair stated that the Police Department would install its speed sign trailer near the intersection on Sunday morning to see if the traffic would slow down.

**Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Bermuda Drive at Florida Avenue, Smith Road at Florida Avenue, Abercorn Street at Florida Avenue, Ogelthorpe Avenue at Florida Avenue, Montgomery Street at Florida Avenue, Michigan Avenue at Greenridge Drive, Castlerock Drive at Stone Creek Boulevard, St. Andrews Road at Stone Creek Boulevard, St. Andrews Road at Amber Lane, Stricker Lane at Stone Creek Boulevard and Landis Farm at Airport Road and the installation of stop signs for northbound traffic on Grange Drive at George Huff Drive, Boudreau Drive at George Huff Drive, Burlison Drive at George Huff Drive.**

Bill Gray explained that the development of new subdivisions within the City of Urbana has created intersections where residential streets intersect with collector and arterial streets.

Mr. Gray moved to install stop signs at the intersections per the warrant guidelines established in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #3 - Discussion of no parking at any time for alleys in the Savannah Green Subdivision.**

Bill Gray explained the purpose of the alleys in the Savannah Green Subdivision was to provide access for servicing the homes in the area. He stated that all recycling, trash collection and mail delivery services were conducted from the alleys. He added that the alleys were 16-feet in width and were too narrow to allow vehicles to park there.

Bill Gray moved to restrict parking anytime for all alleys in the Savannah Green Subdivision.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #4 - Discussion of one-way traffic on alleys in the Savannah Green Subdivision.**

Bill Gray explained that the width of the alleys in the subdivision was permitted with the understanding that traffic would be moving in one direction along the alley. He stated that the developer recommended one-way alleys. Mr. Gray added that the 16' width allowed a vehicle to pass another vehicle.

Bill Gray moved to limit traffic to one-way on alleys in the Savannah Green Subdivision.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #5 - Discussion of no parking on Florida Avenue east of Smith Road.**

Bill Gray stated that the width of Florida Avenue would not accommodate parking on both sides of the street.

Mr. Gray moved to restrict parking on the south side of Florida Avenue from Smith Road to the eastern City limit.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #6 - Discussion of vehicle turning movements at Colorado Avenue and Vine Street.**

Bill Gray discussed a citizen's concern about vehicles traveling southbound on Vine Street turning eastbound and nearly missing vehicles stopped at Colorado Avenue traveling westbound. He stated that the stop bar could not be moved further back to the east for visibility reasons since the property owner at the northeast corner of the intersection recently installed a fence.

Bill Gray recommended that no action be taken.

**Item #7 - Discussion of traffic flow on Lantern Hill Drive.**

Bill Gray discussed the results of a speed study conducted by the Public Works Department. He stated the findings of the report noting that 37% of the motorists exceeded 30 m.p.h. He added that typical studies show 25% or less of motorists exceed the speed limit. Mr. Gray said that the study was conducted over a two-day period. He added that Lantern Hill Drive was impacted since motorists used the street to access southeast Urbana. He stated that when Smith Road was completed the impact on Lantern Hill Drive would be reduced. He noted that peak traffic was during the 5:00 p.m. rush hour.

Shawn Crowley stated that the Police Department would put the speed trailer on Lantern Hill Drive to help reduce traffic speeds.

Eddie Adair stated that he would assign STEP enforcement to the Lantern Hill area and report the results in October.

This item will be discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

**Item #8 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Briarcliff Drive at Jackson Road.**

Bill Gray discussed the findings of the Engineering Division's study to determine where yellow curb should be installed on Briarcliff Drive at Jackson Road. Mr. Gray stated that the study determined that the yellow curb markings were not correctly marked.

Bill Gray moved to remove the yellow curb on the east side of Jackson Road from 23 feet south of the centerline of Briarcliff Drive to 44 feet south of the centerline of Briarcliff Drive. He moved to install yellow curb on the east side of Jackson Road from 30 feet north of the centerline of Briarcliff Drive to 23 feet south of the centerline of Briarcliff Drive and on the west side of Jackson Road from the centerline of Briarcliff Drive to 93 feet north of the centerline of Briarcliff Drive.

Eddie Adair seconded both motions.

Both motions passed 2-0.

These items will go to Council for consideration.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building,  
Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary