

## URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 5, 2003

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Supervisor  
Rebecca Eubig, 1703 Briarcliff Drive  
Esther Patt, City Council Member (Ward 1)  
Dan Stebbins, 1404 Adams Street  
Mary Stuart, 404 East Washington Street  
Jim Lewis, 403 East Washington Street  
Nancy Clinton, Principal, Urbana Middle School, 1201 South Vine Street

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

### **Approval of 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 June 2003.

### **Item #1 - Discussion of parking restrictions in the 400 block of East Washington Street.**

Joe Smith discussed the results of the intersection study of Washington Street and Urbana Avenue. Mr. Smith stated that the yellow curb markings should be extended an additional twenty feet to include some curb between the driveways at 311 and 401 East Washington Street. He stated that he wanted to discuss any further parking restrictions with the residents at 401 East Washington Street before considering any additional action.

Jim Lewis stated that the residents at 401 East Washington Street had moved. He asked that the Traffic Commission consider a policy that applied to three lanes of traffic merging into two lanes occurring near T-intersections. Mr. Lewis stated that the distance of yellow curbing should equal the hypotenuse of a right triangle formed by the width of street and side of the street.

Mr. Smith stated that there was a tapering of the street beginning at 307 East Washington Street that allowed vehicles enough room to transition from three lanes of traffic to two lanes which

was well before the area of concern.

Mary Stuart stated that guests at her home have backed into cars.

Mr. Lewis stated that his car had been hit while on the street.

Mr. Smith cautioned that restricting parked vehicles in front of 401 and 403 East Washington Street would move the problem to other areas on the street.

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Stuart assured the Commission that the residents in that area had ample parking on their properties.

Joe Smith stated that if the residents at 401 East Washington had no objections to parking restrictions in front of their property and if there was ample parking on the properties, then he moved to increase the length of the yellow curb to include the curb on Washington Street from the centerline of Urbana Avenue to the beginning of the driveway at 403 East Washington Street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

The item will go to Council for consideration.

**Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at Indiana Avenue.**

Joe Smith reviewed the Champaign-Urbana Traffic Engineering Committee's (CUTEC) guidelines for installing crosswalks in the University District. Based on those guidelines, Mr. Smith stated that the intersection did not have enough pedestrian crossings to warrant a crosswalk. He added that pedestrians could safely cross at the stop sign at Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street and at the crosswalk located at Lincoln Avenue and Michigan Avenue. He expressed concern about placing crosswalk at every intersection along Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Smith added that he did not wish to go against the CUTEC recommendations for crosswalks.

Esther Patt stated that residents in that block had the ability to safely cross Lincoln Avenue if they chose to walk one block in either direction.

Mr. Smith stated that placing crosswalks so close together would give pedestrians a false sense of security that they could safely cross anywhere along the street.

Joe Smith moved to table this item indefinitely.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0. No action was taken.

**Item #3 - Discussion of the one-way traffic plan for Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.**

Joe Smith explained the purpose of the temporary conversion of Michigan Avenue to one-way traffic from Vine Street to Broadway Avenue as a means to allow parents to drop off and collect students from the Urbana Middle School. He asked if the traffic plan was still necessary with the remodeling of the school completed.

Nancy Clinton stated that buses would not be unloading or loading on Michigan Avenue. She stated that the school had not been setting the signs on the street as they had been doing the year before. Ms. Clinton asked for guidance from the Traffic Commission on how to safely allow parents to drop off students on Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to continue with the one-way traffic plan for the 2003-2004 school year and review the plan before the next school year. He stated that he would research the possibility of installing folding "Do Not Enter" and "One-Way Street" signs to make it easier for school officials to change the signs.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

**Item #4 - Discussion of traffic at Briarcliff Drive and Adams Street.**

Rebecca Eubig discussed her concerns about traffic using Briarcliff Drive as a shortcut to avoid traffic signals at Florida Avenue and Philo Road. She expressed concern about vehicles traveling through the neighborhood at high speeds.

Joe Smith noted that the area had very wide streets and only "yield" signs to control traffic.

Eddie Adair asked for the times when speeding seemed to be most prevalent.

Ms. Eubig stated that the worst time was between 3 and 5 p.m.

Chief Adair suggested using the speed trailer to control speeding as an initial step.

Mr. Smith recommended looking at traffic calming techniques to try to slow traffic on an experimental basis. He stated that he would conduct a traffic count and speed study to determine the extent of the problem with cut-through traffic and speeding.

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

**Item #5 - Discussion of drop-off area at 602 West Green Street (First Presbyterian Church)**

Joe Smith stated that this item was placed on the agenda in response to a citizen request to give authority to enforcement officers to tow away vehicles that have parked in a no parking area in front of the church.

Milton Otto moved to table the item indefinitely until a representative from the church was able to attend the meeting.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3-0.

**Item #6 - Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Springfield Avenue near Strawberry Fields (306 West Springfield).**

Esther Patt discussed a citizen request to install a stop sign to allow easier access from West Urbana (WUNA neighborhood) to Strawberry Fields.

Shawn Crowley stated that she had experienced difficulty in turning onto Springfield Avenue from Main Street and Race Street.

Eddie Adair stated that he would ask his officers to monitor traffic in that area.

Joe Smith stated that he would conduct traffic counts between McCullough Street and Main Street on Springfield Avenue in September when school resumed and check speeds.

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

Meeting adjourned 4:50 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building,  
Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary