

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Edward (Jim) Silha, 1407 Ogelthorpe Avenue
David Guth, 1401 South Smith Road

The meeting began at 4:12 p.m. Mike Bily chaired the meeting.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the May 2007 meeting.

Old Business

Item #1- Discussion of traffic study at Smith Road and Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the results of a traffic study conducted on Smith Road, north and south of Michigan Avenue. He stated that the study was conducted April 19 through 26. Mr. Smith said that the results of the traffic study showed that Smith Road was not a heavily traveled street. He did add that the traffic volumes were higher than those on a residential street, but they were lower than those on a collector street. For traffic traveling north on Smith Road, he noted that the 85% was 35.1 miles per hour, which was a little higher than was typical for that type of street. He also noted that the average speed was slightly higher for this street at 29.3 miles per hour. Mr. Smith pointed to the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends as times when speeds were at their highest.

Mike Bily asked if the times when vehicles were traveling over 40 miles per hour could be separated from the data to determine a time when enforcement might be effective.

Mr. Smith stated that he could filter the data to capture that information. He continued his report by discussing the results of the speed study for traffic traveling southbound on Smith Road. He said that the 85% was 36 miles per hour, also higher than was typical. He noted that the average speed was 31 miles per hour. He attributed the higher speed to the lack of development as one traveled to the south since the north leg of Smith Road had less development than the south leg. Mr. Smith said that the times of violation were very similar to the data for vehicles traveling north.

Mike Bily stated that the speed trailer would be located on Smith Road to inform motorists about the existing speed limit for that street. He added that STEP enforcement would be assigned to the area during the times when violations were most prevalent.

David Guth asked what criteria were used to determine if a stop sign could be installed on Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the criteria. He stated that one of the following had to occur before the City could recommend the installation of a stop sign: 5 accidents had to occur per year for 3 years; 300 vehicles had to travel on Smith Road per hour for an 8-hour period and the side street had to have 200 vehicles per hour for an 8-hour period. He explained that the intersection did not meet the criteria. He stated that the average daily traffic counts (ADT) would have to be around 3,000 to 4,000 vehicles to warrant a four-way stop; the intersection was about 1,300 to 1,400 ADT.

Mr. Guth asked how accidents could be documented.

Mike Bily stated that the Urbana Police Department would have to be contacted.

Joe Smith stated that meeting the criteria of accidents alone could meet the warrant for a four-way stop. He added that there were other intersections that were very close to meeting the warrants for a four-way stop, but the Smith Road and Michigan Avenue intersection did not meet the warrants.

David Guth asked if the location of a bus stop at that intersection warranted a stop sign.

Mr. Smith stated that it did not, but that information should go to Jennifer Selby in the Engineering Division since she would be preparing the Safe Routes to School information.

Joe Smith said that there was a parking problem at the southeast corner of Smith Road and Michigan Avenue. He noted that there was a vehicle that parked close to the intersection making visibility limited.

Fence height was discussed at one of the corners of Smith Road. Mr. Smith stated that the information would be given to Building Safety Division in the Community Development Department.

Mr. Silha discussed concern about vehicles continuing to park on Rainbow View even after parking restrictions were established on that street.

Chief Bily stated that he would ask officers to look at that area to make sure that motorists were observing the parking restrictions.

Joe Smith moved to install "No Parking Here to Corner" signage on the east side of Smith Road from 100 feet to the north and 100 feet to the south of the centerline of Michigan Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Mike Bily stated that a speed study would be conducted and the results would be discussed at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions on Webber Street, north of Washington Street.

Joe Smith discussed the request for parking restrictions on one side of Webber Street. Since the person who requested the restriction was not in attendance, Mr. Smith recommended that no action be taken. He stated that the parking on both sides in residential areas actually slowed traffic, which would be preferred to most residents. He added that if the residents wanted to pursue parking restrictions, they would need to present a petition with 100% of the residents approving the restriction.

Joe Smith moved that no action be taken.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

Item #3- Discussion of next meeting date.

Since the July meeting will occur near Independence Day and it might be difficult for interested parties to attend, there will be no meeting in July. Due to a conflict on August 7, the next

scheduled meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission has been set for Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next meeting will be held August 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary