

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 2, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ashley Price, 1402 South Smith Road
Steve Cosper, 1502 South Montgomery Street
Jane Adams, 1901-A East Amber Lane
Barb Hoover, 1803 Amber Lane

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Bily moved to approve the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the June 2007 meeting.

Old Business

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

Joe Smith reviewed the results of the pedestrian study conducted at Smith Road and Michigan Avenue. He stated that the study was conducted on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning (October 1 and 2). Mr. Smith said that there were ten pedestrians and two bicyclists crossing the intersection between 2:45 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Monday; and fifteen pedestrians and three bicyclists crossing the intersection on Tuesday morning. He said that even though this area was not included on the Safe Routes to School map and did not warrant a pedestrian crossing, it did receive enough pedestrian traffic to install a pedestrian warning sign for northbound and southbound traffic on Smith Road on either side of Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith moved to install a pedestrian warning sign on Smith Road for northbound and southbound traffic on either side of Michigan Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Ashley Price expressed concern about speeding on Smith Road. She stated that the yards were very close to the street in the Savannah Green subdivision.

Mike Bily said that the Police Department would increase patrols, especially during times when speeding seemed to be at its worse.

Steve Cosper said that he believed the pedestrian warning sign would be helpful. He noted that traffic from Florida Avenue travelling northbound turned at very fast speeds onto Smith Road. He asked why Smith Road was not on the Safe Routes to School map.

Joe Smith explained that the maps are done periodically and that Smith Road would be part of the Safe Routes to School map next year.

Item #2- Discussion of speed study on Amber Lane, near Myra Ridge Drive.

Joe Smith explained that the speed study was delayed while waiting for the completion of the Philo Road construction project. He further explained that since that time, construction began on Windsor Road, which might have impacted an accurate study on Amber Lane. He mentioned that another study would be conducted after the Windsor Road project was completed.

Jane Anderson requested that the counter be moved to the east of Myra Ridge Drive to accurately monitor traffic from Stone Creek subdivision. She also expressed concern about traffic from the Amber Pointe apartment complex. She requested that the City paint a centerline on Amber Lane to define the lanes of traffic.

Joe Smith said that the City would look into that request.

Ms. Anderson asked if a stop sign could be installed for those exiting the apartment complex.

Mr. Smith stated that he would ask if double yellow lane lines could be installed on Amber Lane that would be similar to the ones recently painted on Florida Avenue. He said that since the street was privately owned, he would ask the owner of the apartment complex to install a stop sign.

Ms. Anderson stated that traffic sped down Amber Lane in both directions.

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

Joe Smith reported that based upon the speed study, traffic speeds were exceeding 30 miles per hour during the peak hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He continued to report the findings of the speed study which showed that the average speed was 29.17 miles per hour and the median speed was 30.2 miles per hour. He added that the 85 percentile was 35.6 miles per hour, which was high compared to the norm of 33 miles per hour. As a result of the

study, Mr. Smith suggested enforcement and the use of the speed trailer to monitor and enforce the speed limit on Amber Lane.

Mike Bily agreed that the speed trailer would be moved to the area. He said that the new speed trailer would tabulate speeds to let the Police Department know when to assign officers to monitor speed limits.

Jane Anderson asked when the stop light would be installed at Myra Ridge Drive.

Joe Smith stated that the installation was planned to begin in 2009.

Joe Smith moved to paint the centerline on Amber Lane.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Joe Smith said that he would talk to Chris Creek regarding the installation of a stop sign for Amber Pointe Apartments.

Mike Bily stated that the Police Department would increase patrols in the area.

New Business

Item #3- Discussion of the installation of a stop sign on Newport Drive at Skyline Drive.

Joe Smith stated that Skyline Drive had been designated as a collector in the Landis Farm subdivision. He said that a stop sign was warranted for Newport Drive to establish the right of way for motorists travelling through the intersection.

Joe Smith moved to install a stop sign for eastbound traffic on Newport Drive at Skyline Drive.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions on Illinois Street, east of Cottage Grove Avenue.

Dennis Roberts said that he had received a call from a resident who lived on the corner who wanted parking restricted along Illinois Street.

Joe Smith stated that the issue of parking on the south side of Illinois Street had been discussed at a previous Traffic Commission meeting. He added that the vehicle that created the traffic congestion had been moved to the north side of the street which continued to create a traffic hazard near the intersection. Mr. Smith said that he would prefer a parking restriction that matched the restriction on the south side of Illinois Street.

Mike Bily asked if the residents had been notified.

Joe Smith said that the adjacent residents had been notified, but the owner of the vehicle was not an adjacent resident.

Joe Smith moved to restrict parking on the north side of Illinois Street from the centerline to 90 feet east of the centerline of Cottage Grove Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #5- Discussion of crosswalk on Goodwin Avenue between Illinois Street and Oregon Street.

Dennis Roberts reported that he received an e-mail inquiry from the University of Illinois Student Senate about a crosswalk on Goodwin Avenue between Illinois Street and Oregon Street. He informed them that this item would be included as part of the Goodwin Avenue Design Study.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 6, 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