

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pat Connolly, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tracey Pettigrew, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
John Collins, Operations Manager
Tresor Ngoma, CU Independence Apartments, 610 East Kerr Avenue

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as read. Pat Connolly seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting.

Public Input

Those in attendance asked to speak to items as they were discussed.

Unfinished Business

Item #1- Discussion of the installation of traffic control in front of Common Grounds in the Lincoln Square parking lot.

Joe Smith stated that the traffic counts he submitted for processing had not been returned as of the time of the meeting. He recommended that this item be moved to the February meeting of the Traffic Commission.

Pat Connolly agreed with this recommendation.

New Business

Item #2- Discussion of the installation of No Turn on Red signage at Lincoln Avenue and Springfield Avenue, Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street, Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tracey Pettigrew discussed concerns about near-misses that occurred around the University District between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. He asked the Traffic Commission to consider restricting right turns on red lights for motorists at several intersections, but in particular, Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street and Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Joe Smith expressed concern about the increased delays created by the restrictions and the inability of motorists to make right turn movements while the signals were green since the pedestrians continue to cross even after the pedestrian crossing signals indicated that they should stop.

John Collins asked if CUMTD could impose those restrictions on its drivers without the City restricting the turn movements to all motorists.

Mr. Pettigrew felt that the signage needed to be present for enforcement.

Pat Connolly stated that it would be better to implement at the worse intersections instead of prohibiting at all intersections.

Joe Smith said that he would like to study the traffic patterns before making any recommendations.

Tracey Pettigrew said that the turning movement happened often for eastbound traffic on Illinois Street turning south onto Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he would look at the intersections of Lincoln Avenue and Illinois Street and Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue to determine the impact on the timing of the signals. He added that if restrictions were implemented, that he would prefer to add them for eastbound and westbound traffic and not for traffic on Lincoln Avenue.

Pat Connolly agreed to move this item to the February 5th meeting of the Traffic Commission.

Item #3- Discussion of traffic concerns on Kerr Avenue, east of Cunningham Avenue.

Tresor Gnoma discussed his concern for pedestrians living in the C-U Independence Apartments on Kerr Avenue. He mentioned that the MTD busses drop residents off on the south side of Kerr Avenue, east of Cunningham Avenue requiring the residents to cross midblock on Kerr Avenue. He expressed concern that the motorists might not see the residents in time to slow down when coming over a rise to the east of the location. He added that many of the residents have physical

disabilities that require more crossing time. He asked if a speed limit sign could be posted for westbound traffic and a warning sign for both directions to let motorists know that pedestrians cross midblock.

Tracey Pettigrew said that the residents could remain on the bus until it stopped on the north side of Kerr Avenue where a bus stop was located.

Mr. Gnoma did not believe that the residents would want to ride the bus for the additional time it would take to arrive on the north side.

Joe Smith said that he would like to observe the traffic before making any recommendation. He asked Mr. Gnoma when the peak time for crossing would be.

Mr. Gnoma said that most pedestrians cross between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He asked if lights in the pavement, similar to those on Springfield Avenue, could be installed.

Mr. Smith stated that those pavement lights had been removed since they were not effective in controlling pedestrian traffic.

Pat Connolly recommended placing the speed trailer at that location to warn motorists of speed limit on the section of the street.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, second floor conference room.

The January 1, 2013 meeting of the Urbana Traffic Commission has been cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary