



# CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

May 1, 2007

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Brian P. Murphy, Asst. City Manager/Economic Development Services  
Steven J. Vandette, City Engineer  
John K. Abraham, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer 

SUBJECT: Traffic Committee Recommendations  
April 18, 2007

Background:

The Traffic Committee considered this item at the April 18, 2007 meeting and made the following recommendation (minutes attached):

- Recommend installing three-way STOP signs at Castleton and Adonis.

Financial Considerations:

- The cost of installing a STOP sign is approximately \$100.

Policy Considerations:

- Goal I – Enhance livability and safety of the community,
- Goal V – Maintain relevance of public infrastructure to meet changing public needs.

Options:

- Council can approve or deny the recommendations.

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, April 18, 2007 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

PRESENT: Sara Binkowski  
John Diefenbaker  
Ted Halsey  
Richard Kilmer  
Pete Ziegenfelder  
Gordon Schepke  
Ted Hwang, Student Rep.  
Prithvi Murthy, Student Rep.

ABSENT: Jan Hubbell

Also present: Erick Waites, 2123 Castleton  
Steve and Mary Johnson, 2105 Castleton  
Alex Ballios, 2075 Atlas  
and John Abraham, Traffic Engineer  
Lt. Scott McWilliams, Troy Police Dept.  
Lt. Robert Matlick, Troy Fire Dept.

**2. Minutes – March 21, 2007**

RESOLUTION #2007-04-33

Moved by Binkowski

Seconded by Schepke

To approve the March 21, 2007 minutes as printed.

YES: All-6

NO: None

ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #2007-04-34

Moved by Kilmer

Seconded by Binkowski

To excuse Ms. Hubbell.

YES: All-6

NO: None

ABSENT: 1 (Hubbell)

MOTION CARRIED

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **3. Install Three-way STOP signs at Castleton and Adonis**

Sgt. Dan Daniel requests STOP signs be added on NB & SB Castleton at Adonis. He says this is a school crossing-guard position and there is a lot of traffic congestion in the area. There is currently a STOP sign on Adonis at Castleton.

Ellen Kozich, Principal of Susick Elementary School, emailed Sgt. Daniel (attached) also asking for the STOP signs on Castleton to maintain safety of students and parents crossing the street on their way to school.

Since the past few weeks were not conducive to collecting traffic data due to the holiday and spring break, studies will be performed early this week and presented at the traffic committee meeting.

Historic data shows that Castleton has a traffic volume of 1053 vehicles per day, which is not abnormal for Troy residential streets, considering the school traffic. Speed studies on Castleton show an average speed of around 29 miles per hour. With the new configuration of driveways and drop-off areas at the school, there is a vast improvement in traffic circulation near the school. Observations also indicate that the crossing guard is doing an excellent job of ensuring safety of the pedestrians walking to school. Another observation was that the safety patrol also was doing a fine job.

Traffic crash study shows one reported crash in 2004 involving damage to a parked vehicle by a vehicle that fled the scene. No other reported crashes were found in this in the past 3 years (2004-2006).

The STOP signs on Castleton are requested to further assist the crossing guard to safely cross pedestrians to the school. The traffic volumes and traffic crash data, however, show that the state-prescribed warrants for a 3-way STOP-controlled intersection are not met for this intersection. The crossing guard can stop traffic during arrival and dismissal times with the STOP sign paddle, if necessary, to allow pedestrians to cross safely.

Steve Johnson said Castleton is like a racetrack; cars speed over 40 mph and drive over lawns. Mary Johnson pointed out that there are no STOP signs on Castleton past the school from Maple up to Saratoga. A crossing guard is only on duty for two one-half hour periods a day. There is a lot of foot traffic at all times of the day with children going to the playground.

Erick Waites said Castleton needs more than one STOP sign. He said three trees and a house have been hit by speeding vehicles. He also requested more enforcement of parking restrictions in front of Susick School. He said the safety patrol students do a good job, and he doesn't want to see them hurt. He would also like to see an additional NO PARKING 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. sign.

Alex Ballios also mentioned that parking on Adonis and Castleton causes obstructions. He thinks a STOP sign at Atlas and Adonis would be a good idea.

Lt. McWilliams said his officers have done radar checks and there is speeding on Castleton. Sgt. Daniel and the school principal have observed the situation and think a STOP sign would help.

There is a problem with parents parking in NO PARKING areas near the school. Officers try to warn the parents, but there are communication problems with many parents who don't speak English. Someone has put cones near the corners of Adonis and Castleton. Lt. McWilliams will have officers try to keep cars away from the intersections. Mr. Schepke believes the laws should be enforced regardless of drivers' inability to understand English, especially in school zones. Mr. Halsey suggested installation of warning signs ahead of any new STOP signs to alert motorists.

RESOLUTION #2007-04-35

Moved by Kilmer

Seconded by Diefenbaker

Recommend installing three-way STOP signs at Castleton and Adonis.

YES: All-6

NO: None

ABSENT: 1(Hubbell)

MOTION CARRIED

**4. Study Item: Trails/Pathway Plan for the City**

The Futures report and the Parks and Recreation Survey (relevant pages attached) overwhelmingly supported development of trails and pathways in the City both as a means of non-motorized transportation and for recreation. In response to this, the 5-year parks and recreation plan (2007-2012) proposes to establish a Trailway Task Force, a citizen committee to develop the plan. A kickoff meeting was held on March 28 at the Community center and the agenda for the meeting is attached in this packet. As a part of this meeting a questionnaire survey was distributed to all attendees to further work on this effort. Attached also is a copy of the questionnaire so that if any members of the traffic committee are interested in participating in this effort, they may respond to the questionnaire. Since trailways are an integral part of the transportation system for the City, the Traffic Committee may also choose to have a representative/s on the new Trailways Committee. The following are some links to websites that have more information on Trailways.

[www.oakgov.com/peds/program\\_service/es\\_prgm/trail\\_net.html](http://www.oakgov.com/peds/program_service/es_prgm/trail_net.html) or  
[www.oakgov.com/parksrec/program\\_service/trails\\_intro.html](http://www.oakgov.com/parksrec/program_service/trails_intro.html).

Mr. Schepke volunteered to represent the Traffic Committee on the Trailways Committee. He will submit his application to the Community Affairs Office.

5. **Visitors' Time**

No one else wished to address the committee.

6. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairman

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Laurel Nottage, Recording Secretary

**Laurel Nottage**

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**From:** Danny R Daniel  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2007 5:51 AM  
**To:** John K Abraham; Scott P McWilliams  
**Cc:** Laurel Nottage  
**Subject:** FW: Stop Signs

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ellen Kozich [mailto:kozich@mail.wcs.k12.mi.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2007 6:51 PM  
**To:** Danny R Daniel  
**Cc:** Chris Turk  
**Subject:** Stop Signs

I am writing concerning the safety and well being of the students at Susick Elementary. The school, located on Castleton, has a stop sign on the corner of Adonis and Castleton. The crossing guard every day before and after school is vigilant about trying to maintain safety and order in this area. However, the cars quickly go up and down the street. Students and parents walking to and from school are trying to cross at this intersection. I would ask that two more stop signs be installed to stop the flow of the traffic. This would slow the cars down and also create a break in the traffic so the students and parents can safely walk and turn at the corner. I hope the city can consider making this a three way stop so the safety of all will not be compromised.

Thank You,

Ellen Kozich  
Principal

ATLAS

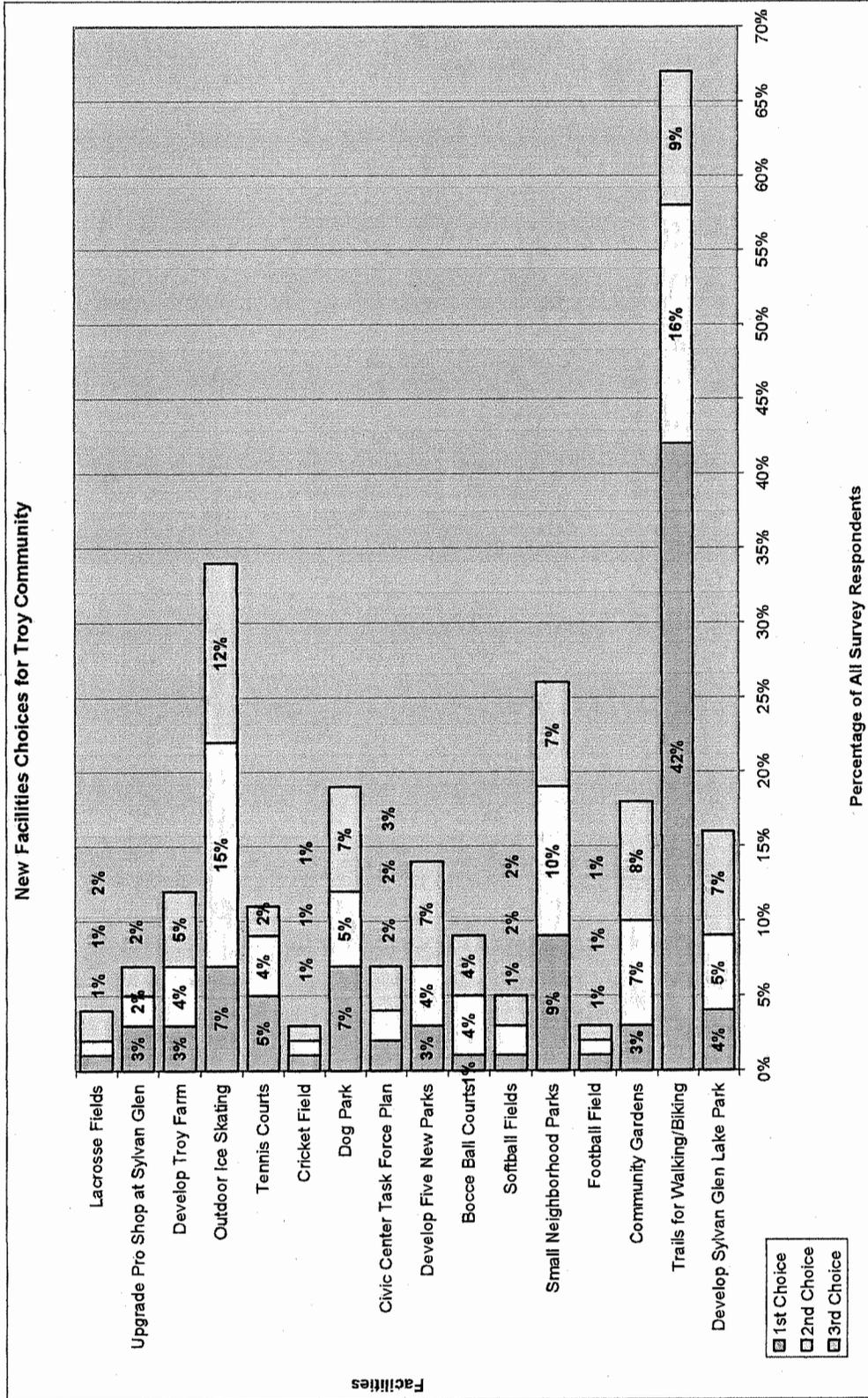
EVA

ADONIS

CASTLETON

Feet





Source: City of Troy Parks and Recreation Survey – 2005.

## 9. ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan identifies how the City of Troy intends to work towards meeting the Plan's Goals and Objectives over the next five years. The following is a list of proposed projects, with justification provided for each. Note that the list is not broken down by year, rather it reflects all of the recreational improvements proposed for the next five years.

### DEVELOP CITY OF TROY TRAILWAY SYSTEM

The development of a trail system in Troy is the City's number one recreational priority based on the results of the survey. There is a wide range of benefits associated with the establishment of a trail system:

- Health and physical fitness.
- Increases property values.
- Promotes community enrichment/character.
- Provides connectivity to neighboring communities.
- Improve landscape aesthetics.
- Recreation for diverse users.
- Income for Michigan's tourism related business.
- Linkages for a statewide network of trails.
- Safe non-motorized transportation routes.
- Conservation of green space and wildlife habitat.
- Environmental quality education opportunities.
- Transportation alternative.
- Connect with existing and proposed bicycle lanes.

The following tasks establish a basic framework for organizing, planning, designing, funding and constructing a system of recreational trails in Troy through a grass roots community effort. More specific details can be included in the City of Troy Trailway Master Plan. The tasks are listed in chronological

order and have been incorporated into the Capital Improvements Program.

1. Establish City of Troy Trailway Task Force
  - A. Create Mission Statement.
  - B. Appoint members.
  - C. Create meeting schedule.
2. Develop City of Troy Trailway Master Plan
  - A. Determine trailway system location.
  - B. Determine phasing for trailway system development.
  - C. Identify future connections with existing trail systems including the Clinton River Trail to the north
  - D. Identify funding opportunities
3. Develop support for City of Troy Trailway Master Plan
  - A. Media coverage.
  - B. Create website.
  - C. Create newsletter.
  - D. Organize events.
4. Establish Trail Development Fund
5. Establish Troy/Rochester Hills Trailway Authority
  - A. Create By-Laws and Mission Statement.
  - B. Appoint members.
  - C. Investigate potential for connection between Troy Trailway and Clinton River Trail.
  - D. Investigate funding opportunities.
6. Construct future phases of trailway system, beginning with Phase 1

The graph shows that 67% of respondents listed "Trails for Walking/Biking" as their first, second or third choice for new facilities. 42% of respondents listed trails as their first choice, which exceeded the combined first, second and third choices of every other facility listed in the survey.

Respondents were categorized based on various socioeconomic characteristics. The survey yielded the following findings:

- Trails were the number one requested recreational facility based on the location of residence, for each section in Troy.
- Trails were the number one requested facility by both males (39%) and females (43%).
- Trails were the first choice of recreational facility for all five age groups.
- Trails were the first choice of recreational facility based on length of residency, for each of the five groups.
- Trails were the first choice of recreational facility based on income, for each of the seven income groups.
- Trails were the first choice (or tied for the first choice) of recreational facility based on ethnic origin of residents in Troy.

Clearly, "Trails for Walking/Biking" is the number one priority for future recreational facilities based on resident input.

"Outdoor Ice Skating" was the second most popular response, with approximately 34% of respondents listing it as their first, second or third choice.

"Small Neighborhood Parks" was the third most popular response, with approximately 26% of respondents listing it as their first, second or third choice.

"Dog Park" was the fourth most popular response, with approximately 19% of respondents listing it as their first, second or third choice.

"Community Gardens" was the fifth most popular response, with approximately 18% of respondents listing it as their first, second or third choice.

### **MASTER PLANNING MEETINGS FOR 5 NEW PARKS**

In 2003, the Parks and Recreation Department contracted with M.C. Smith Associates and Architectural Group to create designs for five new City parks. These parcels were acquired as part of the 1999 voter-approved bond proposal.

Site #1: 22 acres located in Section 22, on Livernois Road between Big Beaver and Wattles.

Site #2: 6.5 acres, located in Section 2, north of Square Lake/Willow Grove, west of Kensington Church.

Site #3: 12 acres, located in Section 11, south of Square Lake, east of Willow Grove.

Site #4: 14 acres, located in Section 24, on John R between Big Beaver and Wattles.

Site #5: 15 acres, located in Section 36, south of Maple and west of Milverton.

**Troy Trails Kick Off Meeting  
March 28, 2007**

- I. Task Force Purpose
  - A. Input on Trail/Pathway Plan
  - B. Advocacy for Plan
  
- II. Purpose of a System
  - A. Recreation Opportunity
  - B. Improve walkability/non-motorized transportation
  - C. Interconnectivity (links to facilities, resources)
  
- III. Other Purposes
  - A. Land Use/Conservation
  - B. Protection Of Natural Resources
  - C. Economic Impacts
  
- IV. Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Department
  - Larry Falardeau, Principal Planner/Program Coordinator
  - Melissa Prowse, Oakland County Trail Network coordinator
  - Kristen Wiltfang
  - A. County Vision and Status
  - B. Planning Process
    - 1. Ten Step Process for Trail Development
  - C. User Skills and Facility Types
    - 1. Trails
    - 2. Pathways
    - 3 Greenways
    - 4. Sidewalks
    - 5. Bike Lanes
  - D. Mapping and Support Services
  
- V. How Did We Get To This Point?
  - A. Parks and Recreation Survey
  - B. Futures Report
  
- VI. What Now?
  - A. Questionnaire
  
- VII. What Next?
  - A. Identify Interest Groups
  - B. Create Task Force
  - C. Maps
    - 1. Previously developed Trails/Pathway plan
    - 2. Maps identifying parks, rights of way, schools, waterways, etc.
    - 3. Bike Route Map
    - 4. Sidewalk Map
  
- VIII. Other
  - A. Troy Community Foundation role
  - B. City of Troy role
  - C. Meeting schedule after core task force group established.

## TROY

This questionnaire is a tool to collect public input to be used toward developing the vision and action plan.

1. Rank(1-4) the following in importance in the trail/path development in Troy?

- Natural resource values (water quality, wildlife habitat, and biological diversity)
- Recreation (hiking, bicycling, walking)
- Scenic Quality
- Non-motorized transportation
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you participated in any trail/path recreational activities within the past year?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which type of activities have you participated in?

- Recreational Walking
- Wildlife Viewing/Bird Watching/Nature Walks
- Jogging/Running
- Mountain Biking
- Bicycle Touring
- Picnicking
- Dog Walking
- Fitness Walking
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the most important topics that you think should be addressed in the plan?  
(Pick the 3 most important issues)?

- Multi-use, non-motorized trails
- Recreation Opportunity
- Biking
- Habitat management and protection
- Walking
- Interconnectivity to: (Destinations)
  - Businesses
  - Cultural sites
  - Parks
  - Schools
  - Municipal facilities (Golf Course, Nature Center, Community Center)
- Trail Connectivity Outside Troy (Clinton River Trail, Stoney Creek to Metro Beach trail)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. Special Area Of Interest (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Where do you live?

Troy  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have an interest in continuing to work on the path/trail system in Troy?

Yes  
 No

7. It is anticipated that there will be ad-hoc committees as part of the planning of this project. Are you interested in serving on any of the following committees?

Surfacing  
 Funding  
 Route  
 Lighting  
 Signage  
 Zoning Issues  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please add any additional comments you feel would be helpful for this effort.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this survey to:

Troy Parks and Recreation  
3179 Livernois  
Troy Michigan 48083

[andersonck@ci.troy.mi.us](mailto:andersonck@ci.troy.mi.us)

fax 248 689-6497