FINAL

The Traffic Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall on October 15, 2003 by Jan Hubbell.

1. **Roll Call**

PRESENT:	Ryan Deel John Diefenbaker Ted Halsey Jan Hubbell
ABSENT:	Richard Kilmer Charles Solis Thomas Sawyer, Jr. Kaveri Korgavkar, Student Rep.
Also present:	John Abraham, Traffic Engineer Lt. Scott McWilliams, Police Department Lt. Robert Matlick, Fire Department
and Item 3	Dennis Torpey, 12830 Rattalee Lake Rd., Davisburg
Item 6	Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6850 Adams Paul Padiar, 1000 W. Maple Rd. Ramarao V. Cherukur, 5448 Crispinway, W. Bloomfield
Item 7	Bruce Bloomingdale, 4264 Tallman

Resolution #TC-2003-10-011
Motion by Diefenbaker
Seconded by Deel

To excuse Mr. Kilmer and Mr. Solis as they are out of the City.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

2. Minutes – September 17, 2003

Resolution #TC-2003-09-012
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Diefenbaker

To approve the September 17, 2003 minutes as printed.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey

This item was first heard at the September 17 meeting. At that time there was no majority vote and the committee asked for a postponement until the October meeting.

Dennis M. Torpey is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing; the existing ditch would have to be filled, and it would not be feasible to move or alter the storm drain/catch basins in their present location.

Mr. Torpey stated that there is no sidewalk on Torpey now and the cost to install a sidewalk there is very high. He said that the sidewalk would lead nowhere and therefore is not warranted. Installation of a sidewalk would require the drainage in the area to be reworked as there are currently ditches and catch basins where the sidewalk would be required. He stated that he has met all of the requirements for sidewalk waiver.

An email from a resident was received by the Traffic Engineering office stating that the sidewalk waiver should be denied. There is a school at the end of the street and the children's safety should be a high priority.

Another resident, James Whiteford of 1075 Torpey Drive, sent a letter to Dr. Abraham stating his opposition to the waiver because of his concern for the safety of students walking to Baker Middle School.

The public hearing was declared open.

Mr. Torpey reiterated his position as stated at the September meeting. He also brought some old aerial photos showing that there used to be an asphalt walkway on the south side of Torpey. He illustrated that the proposed sidewalk on the north side of the street would dead end right at a fire hydrant. There is more space on the south side of Torpey, and he maintains that if a sidewalk is needed, it should be on the south side.

The public hearing was declared closed.

Resolution #TC-2003-09-013
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Diefenbaker

1. WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

   WHEREAS, Dennis M. Torpey has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct a sidewalk on the property because there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing; the existing ditch would have to be filled, and it would not be feasible to move or alter the storm drain/catch basins in their present location.

   WHEREAS, THE Traffic Committee has determined the following:

   a. A variance will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and

   b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and

   c. The construction of a new sidewalk on the property line would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

   NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey, which is owned by Dennis M. Torpey.

YEAS: 3

NAYS: 1 (Deel)

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2003-10-014
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Deel

To take Item 6 out of order.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

6. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6850 Adams

Paul Padiar, on behalf of Bharatiya Temple, is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 6850 Adams. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks." Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

The public hearing was declared open.

Mr. Padiar said that there are currently no sidewalks on Adams, the right of way is only 33 feet and there is a detention basin in the way. The temple has expanded hit parking lot and is adding a new South Boulevard access.

The public hearing was declared closed.

Dr. Abraham said that the Planning Commission required connection of the interior sidewalks. There have been complaints about members parking on Adams, which will be less of a problem with the new parking lot.

Resolution #TC-2003-09-015
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Diefenbaker

1. WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 8(D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant temporary waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

   WHEREAS, Bharatiya Temple has requested a temporary waiver of the requirement to construct a sidewalk on the property because the area is already developed with no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing, and there are ditches on both streets,

   WHEREAS, THE Traffic Committee has determined the following:

   a. A variance will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and

   b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and

   c. The construction of a new sidewalk on the property line would lead nowhere and connect to no other walk, and thus will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

   NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic Committee grants a two-year waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 6850 Adams Road, which is owned by Bharatiya Temple.

4. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 143 Evaline

Michael Johnson is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 143 Evaline. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

It should be noted that six other parcels on the same street were granted sidewalk waivers in the recent past. The Traffic Committee questions whether sidewalks should be required as the street becomes fully developed.

Motion by Halsey

To grant a two-year waiver to the sidewalk requirements at 143 Evaline.

There was no support for the motion.

MOTION FAILED

Mr. Halsey said if Mr. Johnson plans further building, sidewalks should be installed. The Committee wants to hear Mr. Johnson's future plans, and chose not to make a decision until Mr. Johnson appears to address the committee.

RESOLUTION 2003-10-16
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Deel

To postpone voting on this issue until Mr. Johnson attends the Traffic Committee meeting.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

5. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 6728 Eckerman

Michael Johnson is requesting a waiver for the sidewalk at 6728 Eckerman. The sidewalk ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed in conjunction with the development of this parcel due to a recent lot split, combined and replatted. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks." Petitioner states that there are no other sidewalks in the area, the sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing.

The Traffic Committee questions whether sidewalks should be required as the street becomes fully developed. Mr. Halsey said if Mr. Johnson plans further building, sidewalks should be installed. They want to hear Mr. Johnson's future plans, and chose not to make a decision until Mr. Johnson appears to address the committee.

RESOLUTION 2003-10-17
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Deel

To postpone voting on this issue until Mr. Johnson attends the Traffic Committee meeting.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

REGULAR BUSINESS

5. Change YIELD Sign to STOP Sign on Leetonia at Tallman

Bruce Bloomingdale, 4264 Tallman, has requested a STOP sign instead of a YIELD sign on Leetonia at Tallman. He feels that motorists speed on Leetonia, and since there are no sidewalks, it is especially dangerous for pedestrians. He also believes that motorists cut through the subdivision from Livernois to Leetonia, to Tallman, to Longfellow, to Rochester.

The intersection of Leetonia and Tallman is a 3-way "T" intersection with Leetonia ending at Tallman, and there are only five houses on the south end of the "T." Eastbound Leetonia to northbound Tallman carry the majority of the traffic. There are no significant sight obstructions at the intersection.

It should be noted that STOP signs are not speed control devices. Unwarranted signs may dilute the credibility of existing signs and increase violations as motorists try to "make up" for lost time at STOP signs.

Traffic counts indicate that 301 vehicles per day approach the intersection on Leetonia, and 443 per day on Tallman. The usual range of traffic volumes on Troy residential roads is between 300 to 5000 vehicles per day. Traffic volumes on Leetonia and Tallman are low when compared to an average residential street.

The Traffic Engineer has sent Mr. Bloomingdale our brochure on the Neighborhood Traffic Harmonization Program.

Mr. Bloomingdale told the committee that there are no sidewalks on Leetonia, and he is afraid to walk in the neighborhood because of speeding vehicles. In addition, drivers on Leetonia seem to think that all southbound Tallman traffic will turn right onto Leetonia. However, there are homes on Tallman, south of Leetonia, and residents going straight through the intersection have the right of way, causing conflicts.

Mr. Bloomingdale pointed out that the intersection of Randall and Tallman is STOP controlled. He would also like to see STOP signs halfway down Leetonia to slow traffic. Dr. Abraham pointed out that STOP signs are used at intersections to assign right of way, and should not be used mid-block.

Mr. Bloomingdale brought a letter to the meeting from Connie Irby, his neighbor at 4278 Tallman. She has had many close calls while trying to back out of her driveway because of drivers whipping around the corner from Leetonia to Tallman. Children also walk along Leetonia to Tallman to reach Leonard Elementary School.

RESOLUTION #TC2003-10-18
Motion by Halsey
Seconded by Diefenbaker

To recommend installation of a STOP sign in place of the current YIELD sign on Leetonia at Tallman.

YEAS: All-4

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Kilmer
Solis
Sawyer

MOTION CARRIED

10. Visitors' Time

No one appeared to address the Committee on items not on the agenda.

11. Other Business

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2003.

SIGNED: _____
Jan Hubbell, Vice-Chair

ITEM 3

HARRIS
ROCHESTER
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3236
3268
3278
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3364
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1170
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1156
1172
1171
1190
1195
1168
1184
1183
1180
BAKER
TORPEY
CHARRINGTON
0
75
150
300
450
600
Feet

October 11, 2003

Traffic Engineering Office
Attn: Mr. John Abraham

Re: Waiver of sidewalk requirements at 3330 Rochester Road and Torpey

Dear Mr. Abraham,

My name is James Whiteford and I reside at 1075 Torpey Drive. I received your second notice of a public hearing before the Traffic Committee to consider a waiver of sidewalk requirements for 3300 Rochester Road and Torpey. This is to inform you and the Traffic Committee that I am very much opposed to any such waiver. Further, I plan to send similar statements to the Mayor and city council, advising them of this request and my concerns.

I assume the property in question is the vacant corner lot at the Rochester and Torpey intersection, which currently has a sidewalk on the Rochester Road side of the property. There are no sidewalks on Torpey Dr. at this property, or anywhere else. Torpey Dr. ends at Baker Middle School and is the access route for all school busses. The width of Torpey Dr. narrows basically at the property line between me and the vacant lot.

There are 12 to 15 year old children walking up and down Torpey Dr. throughout the year, between the school yard and the corner market. When school is in session, there is a great deal of vehicle and bus traffic. Torpey is not quite wide enough the accommodate cars and buses passing comfortably, as attested by the number of times I have to replace my mailbox every year. So, it is my opinion that a sidewalk along Torpey Dr. is too long overdue. Students cannot safely walk this road with normal traffic, much less with the buses. It is only a matter of time before something tragic happens.

I would like to go on record as opposing any requests for the waiver of sidewalk requirements along Torpey Dr. In fact, I would like to admonish the committee and the City of Troy for not actually having a sidewalk installed on Torpey Dr. yet. Any reasonable and prudent person would expect sidewalks to be installed at all public accesses to school facilities. I look forward to your implementation of corrective actions to eliminate this hazardous condition in the near future.

Sincerely,

James Whiteford

RECEIVED
OCT 14 2003
ENGINEERING

RANDALL
EVALINE
LEETONIA
LIVERNOIS
N

RANDALL
EVALINE
LEETONIA
LIVERNOIS
N
Parcel with sidewalk waived

ITEM 5

1250
1224
1200
1188
1166
1146
1120
1102
1080
1248
1225
1201
1167
1137
1125
1109
1081
HARTWIG
ECKERMAN
N

KILLARNEY
SOUTH
LIMERICK
DONEGAL
ADAMS
N

ITEM 7

CYPRESS
TALLMAN
LEETONIA
WATTLES
4321
4307
4293
4279
4265
4251
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4326
4306
4292
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4264
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364

ITEM 7

My name is Connie Irby and I have asked Mr. Bruce Bloomingdale to read my concerns to the Traffic Committee Meeting October 15, 2003 for me. I recently underwent surgery, which makes it unfeasible for me to attend this meeting.

I live at 4278 Tallman directly north of the Bloomingdale's home. I concur with Mr. Bloomingdale that motorist's speed on Leetonia and cut through our subdivision from Livernois to Leetonia, to Tallman, to Longfellow, to Rochester. The notes that I received for tonight's meeting mentioned that Mr. Bloomingdale "feels that motorist speed on Leetonia" which I along with other neighbors have observed on a daily basis. This is not a feeling but fact.

Leetonia dead-ends unto my property, and I have a large arrow sign on my property to stop motorists from continuing unto the grass between the Bloomindales and my property. My home is the first home north of Leetonia on Tallman. I cannot count the numerous times I or anyone using my driveway have started to back up from my driveway unto Tallman then have to stop quickly because of cars whipping around the corner coming from Leetonia. These cars were not near the corner when first starting to back up my short driveway. A stop sign on Leetonia would help eliminate this problem.

I have also been concerned for the motorists that want to go south on Tallman past Leetonia to their homes. Motorists turning unto Tallman from Leetonia assume all cars are turning unto Leetonia and turn in front of these individuals trying to go to their homes. A stop sign on Leetonia would eliminate this problem.

As Mr. Bloomingdale expressed in his application to place a stop sign instead of the existing yield sign on Leetonia, this is a dangerous corner for anyone that wants to walk on Leetonia since it does not have sidewalks and people need to walk on the street. Children from Leonard Elementary School located on Tallman walk on Leetonia along with middle and high school students that walk to and from the school bus stops daily. In the near future there will be even more traffic on Leetonia to Tallman as soon as the new development is built on Wattles and the dead end of Tallman. From a previous meeting I attend to stop Tallman from being open unto Wattles for this development, it was discussed that many families with young children would be attending the elementary school located at the other end of Tallman. A stop sign on Leetonia would help slow traffic down.

I feel anyway the City of Troy can slow down traffic at this corner is an improvement for the safety of individuals that use this intersection from what exists now. A stop sign would be a vast improvement over the present yield sign. I realize that stop signs are not speed control devices, but feel that motorists will pay more attention to it versus the present yield sign. I sincerely hope that the individuals that make the final decision on changing this sign will agree and place a stop sign on Leetonia at the Tallman intersection.

Thank you.