A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, January 20, 2016 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: Tim Brandstetter
Richard Kilmer
Al Petrulis
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Katie Regan (Student Representative)

Absent: David Easterbrook
Mitch Huber

Also present: Bruce Papet, 1382 Alameda
Pat Hurley, 1340 Hollins Hall
Bradley Pearsall, 4421 Forsyth
Les Marhoff, 4229 Forsyth
John & Carol Taylor, 4165 Forsyth
Bob & Sue Schumann, 4321 Forsyth
Dale Brown, 4333 Forsyth
Fred Szemyak, 4197 Forsyth
Jim Nagy, 1314 Alameda
Stacie Greslick, 1387 Alameda
Mirela Balmus, 4476 Forsyth
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Lt. Eric Caloia, Fire Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – November 18, 2015

Resolution # 2016-01-01
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Petrulis

To approve the November 18, 2015 minutes as printed.

Yes: Brandstetter, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Easterbrook, Huber

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

3. Request for DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION – Rochester Road at Alameda

Bruce Papet of 1382 Alameda Boulevard requests a "DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION" sign at the intersection of Alameda Boulevard and Rochester Road.

Traffic Engineering received five (5) emails and two (2) phone calls prior to the meeting that supported the installation of "DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION" signs at Rochester Road and Alameda Boulevard.

Mr. Papet was in attendance at the meeting and stated his support for a DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign for northbound Rochester Road. He explained that it is difficult to exit onto Rochester Road between 4:00-7:00 PM. Sundays are even more challenging due to Woodside Bible Church traffic on Rochester Road. He further explained that attempting to pull out onto Rochester Road to head southbound is very difficult and creates a hazardous situation for many drivers. Mr. Papet provided pictures of the backups that occur at this location which at times can extend from South Boulevard to south of Alameda Boulevard. He would like a sign like the one that exists at Rochester Road and Fairways Boulevard.

Mr. Jim Nagy of 1314 Alameda supported the statements made by Mr. Papet and added that traffic patterns in the area make access to and from Alameda Boulevard to Rochester Road difficult at best. Woodside Bible Church traffic is extremely heavy and adds to the situation when events or services are held at the site. He asked about placement of the sign due to the deceleration lane to Alameda Boulevard [the sign would be placed near the start of the tangent section, just north of the taper, on the deceleration lane, pending clearance of utilities]. Mr. Nagy added that the commercial businesses on the west side of Rochester Road contribute to the traffic issues in this area.

Mr. Pat Hurley presented himself as the president of the Homeowner's Association. He reports that he has taken several concerns from residents regarding the difficulty of accessing Rochester Road. The issue is primarily during the evening peak hour (i.e. 4:30 – 6:30 PM). He questioned whether there were options that are available at Woodside Bible Church to limit or alter the traffic patterns on the site to restrict exiting traffic to only the south, signalized, drive approach. He feels that this would provide more gaps on Rochester Road and allow for residents on Alameda Boulevard the opportunity to exit/enter from their homes. [Discussions in the past with Woodside Bible Church on traffic during their events/services utilizing both drives to Rochester Road is necessary in order that departing guests can get out of the site and entering guests can get into the site. The traffic signal on Rochester Road at Woodside Bible Church is a private signal, paid for by the church. Operation is typically restricted to large events on nights or weekends as approved by the City].

Mr. Ziegenfelder asked about the long term plans for Rochester Road in this area. This section of Rochester Road is not planned for widening due to the right-of-way that would be needed as well as the proximity to the M59 ramps. A 6-lane boulevard would need to be carried through the South Boulevard intersection and would impact the M59 ramps by the time the boulevard section would taper back to meet existing Rochester Road, north of South Boulevard.

Sgt. Szuminski discussed the issues at this location. Residents are forced to use the center turn lane to merge into traffic. The center turn lane is not to be used for merging, but there really is no other way to complete a turn at this location. The police department will enforce

the DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign when officers are not on higher priority calls.

Ms. Wilsher asked about pavement markings. Winter weather makes placement of pavement markings at this time unrealistic. The sign will be placed, assuming concurrence and approval of the Traffic Committee recommendation by City Council, and monitored for compliance. If the issue does not improve, then pavement markings will be investigated.

Mr. Brandstetter noted that traffic can and does back up from South Boulevard through Alameda Boulevard.

Mr. Petrulis asked about traffic signal timing at South Boulevard as well as at Woodside Bible Church. The signals are monitored and operated by the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC). The City works directly with the RCOC when a request is made by the church for a large event or weekend service. The RCOC has looked at this area numerous times and will continue to be notified for events at the church to activate the traffic signal at Woodside Bible.

Mr. Kilmer noted that there is a similar sign on Livernois at Hickory. He stated that about 80% of drivers comply with the sign.

Mr. Brandstetter discussed traffic signal timing during the peak hour at Rochester Road and South Boulevard and wondered if there could be some changes made by the RCOC that would improve the situation for Rochester Road traffic.

Resolution # 2016-01-02
Moved by Petrulis
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that a DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION sign be **APPROVED** for installation on northbound Rochester Road at Alameda Boulevard.

Yes: Brandstetter, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Easterbrook, Huber

MOTION CARRIED

4. **Residential Speed Control – Forsyth, north of Wattles**

Les Marhoff of 4229 Forsyth contacted the Traffic Engineering Department with concerns regarding speeding on Forsyth, north of Wattles. Forsyth is a straight section of road that is approximately ½ mile long and provides a direct connection to Hill Elementary. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

Mr. Fred Szemyak of 4197 Forsyth stated that he has lived on Forsyth for 47 years. The speed concerns came about after Forsyth was paved. He stated that there are more cars on the street than residents or than attend Hill Elementary. He would like to see more enforcement by Troy Police during the school arrival/dismissal times. He would like to see

another speed limit sign placed mid-way between Wattles and the school. He does not want speed bumps/humps placed. Mr. Szemyak did ask about cutting grooves in the pavement (similar to rumble strips) to provide an audible cue to drivers about their speed.

Mr. Brad Pearsall of 4421 Forsyth stated that there are 21 children that live within 4 houses of the school. Speeds were better when Forsyth was gravel. There are no sidewalks. We need to slow down traffic.

Mr. Dale Brown of 4333 Forsyth states that the problem is constant with traffic to and from the school. Traffic is coming in slower than leaving on Forsyth. He has witnessed cars passing the school bus when it is stopped with the red flashers on. Speeding has been an issue for quite some time.

Mr. Les Marhoff of 4229 Forsyth discussed that Forsyth is ½ mile long with no other intersections. Two (2) deer were hit recently. There are no sidewalks along Forsyth and does not see that sidewalks could be installed easily due to the large drainage ditches. He stated that 50% of the traffic is exceeding 25 mph. He would like to see a flashing speed limit sign during school hours. He would also like to see an additional speed limit sign mid-block.

Ms. Carol Taylor of 4165 Forsyth agrees that something needs to be done. She stated that the police have been on Forsyth before and traffic/speeds are better when police are visible. This issue is also present during the summer months when school is not in session. There are new families moving into the neighborhood with small children and she is concerned for their safety. She has witnessed cars racing down Forsyth.

Mr. John Taylor of 4165 Forsyth added that they are open to any ideas that would slow people down.

Ms. Mirela Balmus of 4476 Forsyth added that they recently moved into a home on Forsyth and have small children. She notices a lot of cars speeding and the Stop sign at the school is routinely ignored.

Mr. Ziegenfelder asked if the existing speed limit sign on northbound Forsyth is in the correct location. [A field review does show that it is placed appropriately]. He stated that there is no speed limit sign on southbound Forsyth. He asked about using rumble strips.

Mr. Brandstetter responded that rumble strips lose their effectiveness over time as drivers get used to them.

Mr. Ziegenfelder continued that he would like to see two (2) speed limit signs in each direction on Forsyth.

Ms. Wilsher stated that cars are flying down the road during the times she has been in the area. She asked about sidewalks.

Mr. Brandstetter asked about relocating the existing speed limit sign to make it more visible. He discussed the speed study and the fact that speeds are highest during school arrival and

dismissal. He discussed speed humps and/or a physical deflection of the road would be the most impactful solution, but would also be paid for by residents. [Residents in attendance at the meeting were not in favor of physical changes].

Sgt. Szuminski discussed the difficulties that the police department has in assigning officers to patrol any one area in the city during peak hours. The police department is approximately 35% smaller than it was and one area that was hit especially hard was the Traffic Safety unit. Previously there were 10 officers assigned to traffic duties. Now there are five (5) officers who do it all and during the peak hour, higher priority calls must be attended to. Troy Police will provide extra patrol in this area when officers are not on higher priority calls.

Resolution # 2016-01-03
Moved by Kilmer
Seconded by Brandstetter

RESOLVED, that two (2) 25 mph speed limit signs, in each direction, be **APPROVED** for installation on northbound and southbound Forsyth, between Wattles and Hill Elementary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Troy Police Department provide extra enforcement on Forsyth when not on higher priority calls; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a follow-up speed study be conducted in May 2016 to review the results of the new signage and police enforcement on Forsyth. The resulting speed study is to be brought back to the Traffic Committee at the June 2016 meeting.

Yes: Brandstetter, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Easterbrook, Huber

MOTION CARRIED

5. **2016 Meeting Schedule**

According to City of Troy Traffic Committee By-Laws, Article IV – Meetings:

"Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Troy City Hall, 500 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, Michigan."

There are no other by-laws or procedures that establish the actual dates of the meetings, but an annual calendar of meetings is published by the City so meeting dates need to be set for this purpose.

Resolution # 2016-01-04
Moved by Brandstetter
Seconded by Wilsher

RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee **SHALL HOLD** Regular Meetings in 2016 according

to the following schedule at 7:30 PM:

- Wednesday, February 17
- Wednesday, March 16
- Wednesday, April 13 (April 20 conflict with City Council Budget Session)
- Wednesday, May 18
- Wednesday, June 15
- Wednesday, July 20
- August – NO MEETING
- Wednesday, September 21
- Wednesday, October 19
- Wednesday, November 16
- December – NO MEETING

Yes: Brandstetter, Kilmer, Petrulis, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Easterbrook, Huber

MOTION CARRIED

6. Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

7. Other Business

Mr. Ziegenfelder reported that the traffic signal on eastbound Long Lake onto Corporate goes red when there is no traffic present. This was noted to occur on Saturday and Sunday after 7:00 AM. The issue will be reported to the RCOC for investigation.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

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