TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2008 FINAL

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, November 19, 2008 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: Sarah Binkowski
Ted Halsey
Jan Hubbell
Gordon Schepke
Pete Ziegenfelder
Sam Jiang

ABSENT: John Diefenbaker
Richard Kilmer

Also present: Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer
Lt. David Livingston, Troy Police Dept.
Lt. Eric Caloia, Troy Fire Dept.
Judy Cholette, 1115 Torpey
Andrea Cholette, 1110 Torpey
Dale Zygnowicz, 6370 Elmoor
Joyce Mann, 1206 Torpey
William Cinader, 1096 Torpey
Brenda Krcek, 3330 Rochester
Burt Kassab, 31000 Northwestern, Farm. Hills
Denny Torpey, 12830 Rattalee, Davisburg
Peter Glasier, 3334 Rochester
Kathleen Novetsky, 3289 Mirage
Gary Abitheira, 3201 Mirage
Mike & Kari Messina, 3302 Mirage
Erin Maten, 1975 Enterprise
Stuart Glasier, 3334 Rochester
Bassem Basha, 767 Coachman

RESOLUTION #2008-11-35
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Hubbell

To excuse Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Kilmer.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: 2 (Diefenbaker and Kilmer)
MOTION CARRIED

2. Minutes – August 20, 2008

RESOLUTION #2008-11-36
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Binkowski

To approve the August 20, 2008 minutes.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver at 3331-3339 Rochester Road

Burt Kassab, on behalf of Troy-Rochester Properties, LLC, requests a waiver for the sidewalk at 3331-3339 Rochester Road, on the Vanderpool side. The Sidewalks and Driveway Approaches (Chapter 34) ordinance requires that sidewalk be installed as part of the development of this parcel. The Public Works Department recommends denial of this waiver request. Petitioner has signed an "Agreement for Irrevocable Petition for Sidewalks."

Petitioner states that the neighborhood is already developed with no sidewalks existing, and a sidewalk would lead nowhere and connect to nothing. There are utility poles and a ditch which would make sidewalk installation difficult (photos attached). He mentioned that there is a perforated storm drain pipe alongside Vanderpool, and the Planning Department was in favor of the waiver.

Residents within 300 feet of the Rochester/Vanderpool intersection have been notified of the Public Hearing. One letter of objection (attached) to the waiver was received from Kraft Chiropractic Clinic, 3283 Rochester Road, which has since been rescinded. The writer was against a waiver on Rochester Road.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-37
Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Hubbell

> WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, Section 34.07.01 (D) allows the Traffic Committee to grant waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and
>
> WHEREAS, Burt Kassab has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk on the property because there are no other sidewalks in the area and there are physical conditions hindering sidewalk installation; and
>
> 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 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 waiver of the sidewalk requirement for the property at 3331-3339 Rochester Road, on the Vanderpool side of the property, which is owned by Troy-Rochester Properties, LLC, until such time as physical conditions change.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #2008-11-08-38
Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Schepke

To consider Item 7 first.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

7. Install a NO LEFT TURN sign on Torpey Drive at Rochester Road

The Troy Police Department requests a NO LEFT TURN sign at this intersection to alleviate significant backups due to vehicles trying to turn left from Torpey to Rochester (see Mr. Huotari's report attached).

Lt. Livingston has observed the traffic and has seen backups, worse at the afternoon school dismissal times. The situation will be worse in the future when the new academy adds more grades. Currently it only has ninth graders.

Judy Cholette, 1115 Torpey, is very much against the left turn prohibition, as is Joyce Mann, of 1206 Torpey. She says it is often easier to turn left, as northbound traffic will stop and let drivers through to the center lane.

Property and business owners at that corner, Denny Torpey, Brenda Krcek, and Peter Glasier, believe they will all lose business if left turns are prohibited. It would be so inconvenient for their customers that they would shop elsewhere. Denny Torpey observed traffic last Friday and Monday, and said there was only about seven minutes of moderate inconvenience for motorists exiting Torpey onto Rochester.

All the residents who spoke said going north to go south is inconvenient and dangerous. There is no way to head south except by turning around in a side street or parking lot.

Mr. Huotari said Rochester Road reconstruction utility work will start in February of 2009, and actual construction early in 2010. The Rochester Road boulevard will be extended to Barclay, and the traffic signal currently at Charrington will be moved to the Torpey intersection.

Mr. Halsey thinks the schools could recommend that parents use an alternate route, such as Boyd Street, to access Rochester Road.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-08-39
Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Schepke

Recommend no changes at Torpey Drive and Rochester Road.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

4. Rescind Traffic Control Order 08-07-MR

At the August Traffic Committee meeting, Res. 2008-08-33 recommended installation of a DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY sign on Maple Road, with yellow lights (if possible) blinking from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday-Friday, on the east side of the west driveway of Fire Station #4 (with the approval of the Road Commission for Oakland County).

RCOC will not permit the proposed yellow blinking lights on the DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY sign, as it is not a typical installation as shown in the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Therefore, TCO #08-07-MR should be rescinded.

RCOC will relocate the DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY sign because installation information has to be recorded their inventory. (RCOC does not like to install these DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY" signs because they are not enforceable. There is nothing in the Michigan Vehicle Code (MVC) that allows for a Traffic Control Order to be written in reference to them.) They prefer to install the Stop Bar so it is done in accordance with their material specifications. After the initial installation ($500) is paid for by the city, RCOC will maintain it in the future at no cost to the City.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-40
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Halsey

Recommend that Traffic Control Order #08-07-MR be rescinded.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

5. Install Stop Signs on Ellenboro at Trombley

Kari Messina, 3302 Mirage, has requested that the YIELD signs on Ellenboro at Trombley be replaced by STOP signs. She and her neighbors are concerned for the safety of students walking to Wattles Elementary School, and also for the middle-schoolers who wait for the school bus at that corner. There are no sidewalks in the area, and the residents feel that making traffic come to a complete stop at the corner would improve safety. Our consultants recommend no changes at the intersection (see attached report).

Gary Abithiera, 3201 Mirage, is concerned about safety because in winter it's dark and often icy when the children are walking to school and to the bus stop.

Kathleen Novetsky 3289 Mirage, said that Wattles Elementary School is the only one in Troy without a 4-way STOP near it. She mentioned that this Ellenboro/Trombley intersection is offset, not completely straight, which makes it trickier to maneuver. She also reports that motorists use Trombley as a cut-through between Rochester Road and Big Beaver.

Mike Messina, 3302 Mirage, would like all-way STOP signs at this intersection. He thinks there is too long a stretch of Trombley without any STOP signs to slow down traffic. MMUTCD does not recommend the use of STOP signs to slow traffic.

Mr. Schepke reported that two of his friends who live near the intersection support installation of STOP signs instead of the YIELD signs.

Mr. Halsey believes the schools need to educate the children about safety while walking to school. He has seen the kids walking on both sides and the middle of the street. Lt. Livingston will contact the school regarding a safety program for students who walk to school.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-41
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Schepke

Recommend that the YIELD signs on Ellenboro at Trombley be replaced by STOP signs.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

6. Install STOP Signs on Robinwood at Enterprise

Erin Maten of 1975 Enterprise requested that STOP signs be placed on Robinwood at Enterprise to replace the existing YIELD sign on Enterprise to improve safety for school children crossing Robinwood. Our traffic engineering consultant reviewed the request and recommends that the existing YIELD sign on Enterprise be changed to a STOP sign (see attached report).

Ms. Maten said that there are around 40 homes on Enterprise where children live, most of them fourth graders or younger. Children are not bussed to school. There is no sidewalk on the south side of Robinwood, so kids must cross Robinwood to reach the sidewalk on the north side. Kids also have to use the same route to reach Robinwood Park. Ms. Maten would like to have sidewalks on the south side of Robinwood, or at least a crosswalk.

Lt. Livingston will contact Troy's elementary school principals to develop a plan to educate teachers and students about safety while walking to school.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-42
Moved by Halsey
Seconded by Hubbell

Recommend installation of a STOP sign instead of the YIELD sign on Enterprise at Robinwood.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

8. Establish Fire Lanes at 2477 West Maple Road

Section 8.28, Chapter 106, Troy City Code, provides for the establishment of fire lanes on private property. The Fire Department recommends that the fire lanes shown on the attached sketch be provided to allow proper deployment of and travel by emergency vehicles (fire, police, medical).

RESOLUTION #2008-11-43
Moved by Hubbell
Seconded by Halsey

Recommend establishing fire lanes/tow away zones at 2477 West Maple, as recommended by the Fire Department.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

9. Public Comment

Joyce Mann, 1206 Torpey, expressed gratitude for the additional speed limit signs and police patrols on Torpey. She believes they are helping to slow traffic.

10. Other Business

Mr. Huotari reported on Baker Middle School. The school has made significant changes to improve safety and traffic flow in their parking lot.

Joyce Mann expressed a wish for more lighting in the parking lot, as she has seen vehicles hit the divider. Mr. Huotari said that the school would be responsible for lighting.

RESOLUTION #2008-11-44
Moved by Binkowski
Seconded by Hubbell

To not meet in December.

YES: All-5
NO: None
ABSENT: Diefenbaker and Kilmer
MOTION CARRIED

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Pete Ziegenfelder, Chair

Laurel Nottage, Recording Secretary