

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, August 7, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member  
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police  
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement Supervisor  
Janet Fredrick, 1105 North Division Street  
Troy Richman, 1104 North Division Street  
Jim McCall, 1011 North Division Street

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

**Additions to the agenda:**

There were no additions.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Eddie Adair seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of July 2001.

**Item #1 - Discussion of Division Street traffic issues.**

Janet Fredrick discussed her concerns about traffic on Division Street. She asked the City to block the road on Lakeside Terrace to reduce through traffic in the neighborhood. Ms. Fredrick stated that visibility was a concern on for motorists on Kerr Avenue, south of Division Street. She added that the brush needed to be cleared at the corner. She was concerned about speeding vehicles with loud music in the neighborhood. She stated that the City had promised to install a stop sign at Division Street and Oakland Avenue. Ms. Fredrick was concerned about possible drug activity in the area. She stated that vehicles begin speeding at Berkley Avenue where the street changes from concrete to asphalt.

Troy Richman stated that he was concerned about speeding vehicles in the neighborhood. He offered the use of his driveway if the police department needed to monitor traffic. He suggested the use of permits for those who live in the housing units so unauthorized motorists would not be driving in the neighborhood.

Jim McCall discussed his concerns about speeding and traffic at the intersection of Division Street and Kerr Avenue. He requested the installation of a stop sign at Division Street and Kerr Avenue. He stated that visibility to the north and east of the intersection is poor. He expressed his concern about

crime in the neighborhood. He stated that closing the access to the housing projects in Champaign to one access point reduced crime. He stated that there are many suspicious vehicles in the neighborhood.

Milton Otto stated that the Police Department could not stop vehicles because the vehicle falls within a certain price range.

Eddie Adair responded by stating that the Police Department would monitor speeding in the neighborhood. He stated that he had checked the vehicle speeds before and found motorists playing loud music but not speeding. He said that he would assign STEP enforcement to the area and report the results at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Mr. Richman stated that the speed limit was not posted on the street.

Joe Smith discussed the issue of the installation of the stop signs. He added that he studied the intersection after the residents of the area first requested a three-way stop at Oakland Avenue and Division Street. He stated that the intersection, which at the time had no traffic control, did not meet the State warrant for multi-stop signs of at least 500 vehicles per hour. He said that the City did install a one-way stop sign for eastbound traffic on Oakland Avenue at Division Street to conform to the visibility ordinance since there was a hedge at the corner blocking the view.

Ms. Fredrick stated that the hedge at the northeast corner of Kerr Avenue and Division Street created a visibility problem when turning onto Kerr Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that he would check the visibility of the intersection at Division Street and Kerr Avenue to determine if the hedge blocks the motorist's view. He added that a "Dangerous Intersection" or intersection sign might be installed.

Janet Fredrick suggested that the City install a "No Turn on Red" sign for southbound traffic on Cunningham Avenue at Kerr Avenue.

Joe Smith said that he would look at the possibility of installing the signage. Mr. Smith responded to the request for a fence to close access to Lakeside Terrace. He stated that a fence would create a problem for emergency vehicles since the lack of an access would slow their response time.

Milton Otto stated that the City would be reluctant to block the street. He suggested that the residents bring concerns about Lakeside Terrace to Pat Stebbins at the Champaign County Housing Authority.

Troy Richman asked if the City could make Division Street one-way for southbound traffic.

Joe Smith said that he would discuss the possibility with the Police and Fire Departments. He asked for a petition from the residents requesting one-way traffic on their street.

Milton Otto asked the City to check for speed limit signs on Division Street.

This item will be discussed at the September Traffic Commission meeting.

**Item #2 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Rutledge Drive at Florida Avenue and on Kinch Street at Florida Avenue.**

Joe Smith stated that the streets connecting Kinch Street and Rutledge Drive to Florida Avenue would be finished within the week.

Joe Smith moved to install one-way stop signs for southbound traffic on Rutledge Drive at Florida Avenue and on Kinch Street at Florida Avenue. He stated that the warrants for a through street were met.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion was passed 3-0.

This item goes to Council with the recommendation for approval.

**Item #3 - Discussion of the installation of informational signage to the Urbana Post Office on Washington Street and Main Street.**

Joe Smith stated that the U.S. Post Office does not meet the criteria established by the Public Works policy for installing informational signage. He added that the roadways immediately adjacent to the Post Office were under State jurisdiction and that the installation of signage on City roadways would not adequately direct motorists to the facility.

Joe Smith moved to deny the request for informational signage to the Urbana Post Office since the signage was not warranted.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3-0 to deny the request for signage.

**Item #4 - Discussion of the installation of 4-way stop signs at Oregon Street and Cedar Street and Oregon Street and Birch Street and California Street and Cedar Street and California Street and Birch Street.**

Becky McCabe, Principal at Leal Elementary School, was unable to attend the meeting. She expressed her concern about vehicles speeding on California Street and Oregon Street from Lincoln Avenue to

Race Street. She asked for the City to help make the intersections more visible for motorists approaching the school.

Joe Smith stated that he would check the lengths of the yellow zones to determine whether the zones needed to be lengthened increase visibility for pedestrians and motorists. He added that none of the intersections met the warrants for installing stop signs.

Eddie Adair stated that he would assign STEP enforcement to patrol the area after school begins and report on the results in October.

Mr. Smith stated that he would report on the results of measuring the yellow zones at the September meeting.

Joe Smith stated that he would ask Jim Kelly to check the school signage around Leal Elementary School to make sure that there were warning signs around the school.

**Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of 2-way stop signs at Cottage Grove Avenue and Silver Street.**

Joe Smith moved to install stop signs for northbound and southbound traffic on Cottage Grove Avenue at Silver Street to solve a geometric design issue with the street.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3-0.

Milton Otto asked if the stop sign on Silver Street at Cottage Grove Avenue would remain.

Joe Smith stated that the sign would remain.

**Item #6 - Discussion of parking restrictions on McHenry Street between Philo Road and Anderson Street.**

Joe Smith stated that Glenn Berman and he looked at the traffic flow on McHenry Street after a citizen requested that parking be restricted to one side of the street. Mr. Smith stated that there were very few cars traveling on McHenry Street. He added that cars parked on both sides of the street created no problem for passing motorists, but instead the parked vehicles created a traffic calming effect on traffic. He felt that there was no serious problem for traffic movement on the street.

Joe Smith moved to take no action.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

Chief Adair reviewed the results of the July STEP detail. (See attached report.) He stated that school enforcement would begin in September.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. Urbana City Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 400 South Vine, Urbana.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stiehl  
Recording Secretary