

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 4, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer
Eddie Adair, Chief of Police

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Milton Otto, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Traffic Enforcement
James M. McCall, 1011 North Division Street
Janet Fredrick, 1105 North Division Street
Troy Richman, 1104 North Division Street
Connie Brown, Principal, Washington Early Childhood School

The meeting began at 4:10 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

Eddie Adair moved to accept the minutes as read. Joe Smith seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of August 2001.

Item #1 - Discussion of one-way traffic on Division Street.

Janet Fredrick presented a petition from some of the residents on Division Street requesting that the street be designated as one-way for southbound traffic.

Joe Smith stated that he would discuss the traffic flow with the Fire and Rescue Services Chief, Police Chief and Public Works Director.

Joe Smith discussed the results of the traffic and speed studies conducted on Division Street. He stated that studies were conducted on Thursday, August 30, 2001. Mr. Smith said that the average speed for the 461 vehicles traveling on Division Street over a twenty-four hour period was between 21 and 23 m.p.h. He added that higher speeds were recorded in the northbound lane. He surmised that the transition from concrete to oil and chip surface in the southbound lane caused traffic to reduce speed.

Janet Fredrick asked if the study could be conducted over a weekend.

Joe Smith stated that he would conduct a study over the weekend.

Eddie Adair stated that he had observed traffic on Division Street near the Circle Center. From his observations he noted that there was very little daytime traffic on Division Street with most vehicles traveling within the speed limit. He added that the Police Department would continue to monitor traffic on Division Street and would add nighttime observations to their report.

Jim McCall stated that speeding occurred more frequently at nights and weekends.

Eddie Adair stated that he observed more problems with traffic on Kerr Avenue.

Joe Smith suggested either a warning sign on Kerr Avenue at Division Street or the removal of vegetation at that intersection to allow more visibility at that intersection. He stated that he would discuss the concern with the City Arborist.

Troy Richman stated that the Housing Authority was considering a request to close the north entrance to Lakeside Terrace. He added that the request for one-way traffic on Division Street would not be necessary if the Housing Authority closed the north entrance to Lakeside Terrace.

Joe Smith asked Janet Fredrick to obtain any additional signatures to their petition by the October Traffic Commission meeting. He stated that he would conduct another speed and traffic study over a weekend on Division Street and on Kerr Avenue.

Eddie Adair stated that the Police Department would continue to monitor traffic in that area.

The Commission asked that the traffic issues on Kerr Avenue and Division Street be added to the October agenda.

Item #2 - Discussion of street closing on Chapin Street between Berkley Avenue and Broadway Avenue.

Connie Brown, Principal at Washington Early Childhood, asked the Traffic Commission to temporarily close Chapin Street between Berkley Avenue and Broadway Avenue. She requested this to allow school buses to park along Chapin without using their warning lights and paddles so they can shut off their motors while waiting for students and teachers. She expressed concern that having the buses on while waiting would not be environmentally healthy for students waiting outside. Ms. Brown stated that the school had the signage and would be responsible for installing and removing the signage as necessary.

Joe Smith stated that he did not see any problems with temporarily closing the streets unless there would be an objection from the Fire Department.

Connie Brown stated that she would notify METCAD that they would be temporarily closing the street.

Eddie Adair stated that the Police Department supported the temporary closing of Chapin Street.

Joe Smith moved to temporarily close Chapin Street on an experimental basis. He added that the Traffic Commission would evaluate the situation after six months.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

Connie Brown stated that she would send a copy of the letter to METCAD and Laidlaw Bus Service.

Item #3 - Discussion of one-way traffic on Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue.

Joe Smith discussed the request by the Urbana School District to allow one-way traffic only for westbound traffic on Michigan Avenue between Vine Street and Broadway Avenue. He stated that the Urbana Middle School already had permission to allow one-way traffic for the afternoon, but the school district would like to allow one-way traffic in the morning.

The school district asked for the change of traffic flow to provide easier turning movements for buses traveling south on Vine Street and turning right onto Michigan Avenue.

Joe Smith stated that Public Works Director could temporarily designate a one-way traffic flow on an experimental basis. He suggested asking the Public Works Director to grant permission on a temporary basis and contacting the residents along Michigan Avenue to determine the impact the change in traffic flow might have. He added that the residents should have an opportunity to discuss any concerns they might have.

Discussion of the traffic movement on the first day of school around the Urbana Middle School followed.

Eddie Adair suggested placing fliers on the windshields of vehicles parking illegally in the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. no parking area. He stated that the City would tow vehicles beginning next week.

Joe Smith stated that he would discuss concerns about traffic with the principal at the Urbana Middle School.

Shawn Crowley stated that she would draft a flier to place on vehicles' windshields and distribute copies to the Shift Commanders and the Chief.

Joe Smith moved to permit one-way traffic on Michigan Avenue from Vine Street to Broadway Avenue from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on an experimental basis.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

Joe Smith asked that the residents along Michigan Avenue be contacted before this item was discussed at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Item #4- Discussion of parking restrictions on both sides of Myra Ridge Drive between Amber Lane and Windsor Road.

Joe Smith asked that this item be discussed at the October Traffic Commission Meeting.

Item #5- Discussion of parking restrictions on both sides of Amber Lane between Myra Ridge Drive and Philo Road.

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved on to the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #6- Discussion of parking restrictions on one side of the street on Amber Lane between Myra Ridge Drive and Stone Creek Boulevard.

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved to the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #7- Discussion of parking restrictions on one side of the street on Florida Avenue between Kinch Street and Smith Road.

Joe Smith stated that there was a detention basin on the south side of Florida Avenue making it unnecessary for vehicles to park along that side of the street. He added that since the street becomes narrower at this section, the elimination of parking would improve traffic flow.

Joe Smith moved to install no parking this side of the street on Florida Avenue between Kinch Street and Smith Road.

Eddie Adair seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Item #8- Discussion of parking restrictions on one side of the street on Kinch Street between Vermont Street and Florida Avenue.

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved to the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #9 Discussion of the installation of stop signs at Vermont Street and Greenridge Drive.

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved to the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #10 Discussion of parking restrictions on the north side of Vermont Street between Greenridge Drive and Kinch Street.

Joe Smith asked that this item be moved to the October Traffic Commission agenda.

Item #11 Discussion of STEP report.

Eddie Adair discussed the results of the August STEP Report. (See attached report.)

Meeting adjourned 4:55 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary