

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 4, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Bily, Acting Chief of Police

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Gray, Public Works Director
Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Rick Wolken, Somer Township Road Commissioner
Robert McIntosh, 2707 Landis Farm Road
Sarah Parker, 2707 Landis Farm Road

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Dennis Roberts seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the March 2006 meeting.

Item #1 - Discussion of traffic concerns on Airport Road.

Dennis Roberts summarized discussions about Airport Road from previous Traffic Commission meetings and stated that the purpose of this discussion was to determine what could be done to improve safety on Airport Road. Mr. Roberts asked about the feasibility of installing a streetlight at the intersection of Landis Farm Road and Airport Road.

Joe Smith stated that it was possible to lease a pole light from Ameren IP for that intersection.

Bill Gray said that the most economical way to provide a light for that intersection was to lease from Ameren IP. He added that the City had done that before in similar situations.

Rick Wolken asked what was the major concern for the residents in that area.

Sarah Parker stated that there were more people living in the area and cars traveled very fast on Airport Road.

Mr. Smith said that the City and Somer Township had added signage to the area and the City had conducted a speed study to set a speed limit on Airport Road.

Mr. Wolken noted that Airport Road was originally a rural road which was becoming an urban road. He added that the City would probably annex the area within the next five years so Somer Township did not have any long-range plans to improve Airport Road.

Mr. Gray explained that the future plans for development along Airport Road would allow the annexation of the area to the east of Landis Farm Subdivision within the next five years. He further explained that Mr. Wolken's role as Road Commissioner was to maintain the road, not to improve the road by changing its design.

Joe Smith stated that sidewalks could be added, but the sidewalks would not lead to any destination point.

Bill Gray pointed out that speed limits had been set based upon the results of a speed study, but he added that motorists would travel faster if they felt comfortable doing so irrespective of the posted speed.

Rick Wolken stated that the width of the road would naturally slow traffic.

Dennis Roberts said that motorists typically drove in the middle of the road since there were no lane markings. He asked if the road could be striped to keep traffic to one side of the road.

Mr. Gray agreed that striping might help traffic flow and safety on the road.

Joe Smith suggested that striping might not be necessary on the entire stretch of Airport Road, but just in the area near the intersection where there was a rise. He felt that the type of street would require the City and Township to paint the road once or twice a year.

Rick Wolken said that he would check with the Urbana Township Road Commissioner to determine if the road could be striped in Urbana Township.

Bill Gray offered to inquire about the cost of leasing a streetlight from Ameren IP. He asked if Ms. Parker or Mr. McIntosh knew of anyone involved in a neighborhood association for Landis Farm Subdivision.

Ms. Parker stated that they were contacted about an association last year, but that she never received any follow-up information.

Dennis Roberts suggested that Mr. Gray find out what the cost for the streetlight would be and then the Traffic Commission would contact the residents in that area to determine whether the installation of a light would be a possible solution to traffic concerns.

Rick Wolken asked about the possibility of a flashing yellow light over the intersection warning signs on Airport Road.

Joe Smith stated that the cost of the flashing lights would be better used for future road improvements.

Bill Gray said that as traffic volumes increased, speeds would likely decrease on the road.

Joe Smith moved to paint lane markings on Airport Road from east of Cunningham Avenue to High Cross Road applying the no passing rules to the hill to the east of Landis Farm Road.

Dennis Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

Item #2 - Discussion of parking restrictions on the south side of Bradley Avenue between Romine Street and Carver Drive.

Joe Smith explained the previous discussion about Bradley Avenue not having the lanes clearly marked to show that it was a two-lane street. He stated that there was a merge warning sign in Champaign showing Bradley Avenue changing from a four-lane street to a two-lane street, but he added that there were no markings on the street showing the reduction in traffic lanes. As part of the design to show taper markings on Bradley Avenue, Mr. Smith stated the need to restrict parking on the south side of Bradley Avenue from Carver Drive to Romine Street.

Dennis Roberts moved to install no parking restrictions on the south side of Bradley Avenue from Carver Drive to Romine Street.

Joe Smith seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

The next meeting will be held May 2, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary