

URBANA TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 1, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Bily, Chief of Police
Joe Smith, Senior Civil Engineer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dennis Roberts, City Council Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shawn Crowley, Parking Enforcement
Linda Schlueter, 2302 East Main Street
Sharon A. Ward, 102 North Smith Road
Jim Dengate, 2309 East Delaware Avenue
Lou Walthall, 1604 South Kinch Street
Jim Hayes, 1204 West Dublin Street
George Haake, 1416 South Smith Road

The meeting began at 4:05 p.m.

Additions to the agenda:

There were two additions to the agenda.

Discussion of the installation of stop sign on Memory Lane at Myra Ridge Drive.
Discussion of traffic on Eads Street at Goodwin Avenue.

Approval of Minutes:

Joe Smith moved to accept the minutes as read. Mike Bily seconded the motion. The Commission voted 2-0 to approve the minutes of the June 2006 meeting.

Item #1 - Discussion of the installation of stop signs on Michigan Avenue, Rainbow View, Country Squire Drive, and Lantern Hill Drive at Smith Road; on Washington Street and Main Street at Smith Road; on Marc Trail at Myra Ridge Drive; and on Willard Street at Lynn Street.

Joe Smith moved to install stop signs at the following locations: on Michigan Avenue for eastbound and westbound traffic at Smith Road; on Rainbow View for eastbound and westbound traffic at Smith Road; on Country Squire Drive for eastbound traffic at Smith Road; on Lantern Hill Drive for eastbound traffic at Smith Road; on Marc Trail for eastbound traffic at Myra Ridge Drive; on Memory Lane for westbound traffic at Myra Ridge Drive; and on Willard Street for westbound traffic at Lynn Street.

The request for signage at these intersections was warranted to establish rights-of-way where rights-of-way had not already been established.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for consideration.

Linda Schuelter discussed her concerns about traffic at the intersection of Main Street and Smith Road. In particular, she was concerned about the speed of traffic as she tried to exit her driveway, which was located on Main Street to the east of Smith Road. Ms. Schuelter had asked for a stop sign to slow down traffic so she would be able to pull out of her driveway.

Mike Bily asked if there was a specific time when traffic seemed to be speeding.

Ms. Schuelter stated that night time was worse. She added that it was difficult to pull out from Smith Road onto Main Street when traffic was very heavy.

Mr. Dengate agreed that there was a problem turning from Smith Road and seeing approaching traffic on Main Street.

Chief Bily suggested that the Police Department place the electronic speed sign on Main Street and assign a STEP detail to the area to decrease the problem with speeding.

Joe Smith discussed the results of a traffic count completed on July 25, 2006 at the intersection. Mr. Smith stated that the number of vehicles at the intersection did not meet the warrants established by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He stated that there were not enough accidents at the intersection to warrant the installation of stop signs on Main Street. He added that the City did not install stop signs to slow traffic since the signs tend to increase speeds after the intersection instead of slowing speeds.

Mike Bily suggested the Urbana Police Department begin with enforcement and asked for specific times when speeding was a problem.

Linda Schuelter and Sharon Ward agreed that speeding was a problem after work and in the late evening.

Mike Bily said that STEP enforcement would be assigned to the area during those times and the results of their detail would be discussed at the September Traffic Commission meeting.

Joe Smith stated that he would look at visibility issues at the intersection and request that any obstructions be removed.

Joe Smith requested that the issue of signage on Washington Street and Smith Road be postponed until October since the impact of school-aged pedestrian traffic would be easier to study later in August and in September.

Item #2- Discussion of traffic study on Florida Avenue at Kinch Street.

Joe Smith discussed the results of the traffic study on Florida Avenue at Kinch Street. He stated that the traffic volumes for Kinch Street were lower than those at Smith Road and that none of the warrants for stop signs were met.

Lou Walthall expressed concern about the impact of the increased traffic on Florida Avenue once the street was connected to High Cross Road. He added that his neighbor, who lived at the corner of Kinch Street and Florida Avenue, had her mailbox hit by vehicles on two separate occasions. He felt that a stop sign might slow traffic. He noted that when he turned off of Florida Avenue to turn into his driveway on Kinch Street, vehicles traveled too close behind him and made turning uncomfortable.

Joe Smith stated that he was concerned about installing unwarranted stop signs. He said that the City would re-evaluate the traffic volumes after Florida Avenue opened to High Cross Road.

Mr. Walthall asked if the City would consider installing speed limit signs on the north and south ends of Kinch Street to inform motorists about the speed limit.

Joe Smith moved to install speed limit signs on Kinch Street near Washington Street for southbound traffic and on Kinch Street near Florida Avenue for northbound traffic.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Joe Smith stated that he would continue to monitor traffic volumes at Kinch Street and Florida Avenue, Smith Road and Florida Avenue, James Cherry Drive and Florida Avenue once High Cross Road opened. He added that there may be a need for yellow flashing lights near the school.

Concern was voiced about loud radios.

Mike Bily stated that the Police Department was tracking the number of tickets that were issued this summer. He added that the number was greater than the past ten years combined. He said

that if a citizen had a concern they could contact the Police Department with a vehicle description and the Police Department would try to monitor the vehicle.

George Haake asked if parking could be restricted to one side of Michigan Avenue, near Smith Road.

Joe Smith said that the City would look at traffic in that area. He added that parking on both sides of the street actually slowed traffic and the elimination of parking might cause vehicles to travel faster on the street. He recommended that the residents on that street submit a petition to the City asking for the parking restriction.

Item #3 - Discussion of parking restrictions on Pennsylvania Avenue, east of Lincoln Avenue.

Joe Smith recommended parking restrictions on Pennsylvania Avenue as part of the intersection improvement project under way at Lincoln Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. As part of the project, Mr. Smith stated that traffic signals were being installed.

To provide adequate space for the turn lanes for traffic at the signalized intersection, Mr. Smith moved to eliminate parking on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue from the centerline of Lincoln Avenue to 258 feet east of the centerline on Lincoln Avenue.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item will go to Council for further consideration.

Item #4 - Discussion of the installation of Risk Watch signage at entryways into Urbana.

This item was postponed.

Item #5 - Discussion of the installation of a crosswalk on Illinois Street at the Walnut Street entrance to Lincoln Square.

Joe Smith stated that there was an increase in pedestrian crossings to and from the parking lot on the south side of Illinois Street and the Lincoln Square Village parking lot. He explained that the Market at the Square, location of Health Alliance parking and downtown shuttle parking had increased the use of the lot and pedestrian traffic.

He moved for the installation of an uncontrolled pedestrian crosswalk on Illinois Street at Walnut Street.

Mike Bily seconded the motion.

The motion passed 2-0.

This item does not require Council action.

Item #6 - Discussion of traffic on Eads Street at Goodwin Avenue.

Jim Hayes discussed a concern brought to him by Sterling Atkins of 1109 North Harvey Street. Mr. Hayes stated that Mr. Atkins was concerned about cars traveling at excessive speeds on Eads Street between Goodwin Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and asked for the installation of stop signs to slow traffic.

Joe Smith said that the request for stop signs had been brought to the Traffic Commission before and that he would research the information for the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Mike Bily stated that he would assign STEP detail to the area and report on the results.

The Commission discussed items to be placed on the September Traffic Commission agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

The next meeting will be held September 5, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine, second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stiehl
Recording Secretary