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3 **DATE:** Tuesday, January 3, 2019
4 **TIME:** 4:00 P.M.
5 **PLACE:** Urbana Public Works Department, 706 South Glover Avenue

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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11 Eric Jakobsson, City Council Member, Ward 2, Chair
12 Craig Shonkwiler, Interim Co-City Engineer
13 Bob Fitzgerald, Interim Deputy Chief
14

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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17 None
18

OTHERS PRESENT:

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21 Shannon Beranek, Civil Engineer, City of Urbana
22 John Collins, Operations Manager, City of Urbana
23 Stacey DeLorenzo, University of Illinois, Facilities and Services
24 Annie Adams, 1004 South Wabash Avenue
25 Moseka Mokonzi, 1302 South Abercorn Street
26

27 The meeting began at 4:00 p.m.
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Approval of Minutes:

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31 Bob Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting. Craig Shonkwiler
32 seconded the motion. The Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the December meeting.
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Additions to the agenda:

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36 There were no additions to the agenda.
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Public Input

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40 Those wishing to provide input did so as items were discussed.

1 **Unfinished Business**

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3 There was no unfinished business.

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5 **New Business**

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7 **Item #1- Discussion of traffic control at 505 South Mathews Avenue.**

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9 Shannon Beranek noted deficiencies observed by staff at 505 South Mathews Avenue. Specifically, Ms.
10 Beranek stated that the visibility and pavement markings at the location were poor. She elaborated
11 stating that the stop bar, temporary signage and bicycle lane were difficult for southbound traffic to see.
12 Based upon staff observations and budget limitations, Ms. Beranek recommended the elimination of
13 the bicycle crossing and suggested expanding the current pedestrian crosswalk to accommodate
14 bicyclists within the pedestrian crosswalk. She said that the bicycle crossing to the south was scheduled
15 for improvements as part of the Urbana Bicycle Master Plan so bicyclists would have adequate areas for
16 crossing Mathews Avenue. Another suggestion presented by Ms. Beranek was the painting of
17 bumpouts on Mathews Avenue to increase visibility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists as they
18 approach the crossing. Lastly, Ms. Beranek recommended relocating a parking stall to provide more
19 visibility for all users. She said that by moving the stall, an additional space could be added.

20
21 Annie Adams asked if permit parking was a consideration to reduce the number of trips on the streets.

22
23 Mr. Shonkwiler said that the City had jurisdiction over Mathews Avenue. He explained that each stall
24 provided approximately \$2,000 annual revenue for the City. He added that the revenue generated from
25 meters on Mathews Avenue supported the entire parking system for the City. He mentioned that the
26 University Transportation Master Plan reflected the University's interest in using Mathews Avenue as
27 an automated transit corridor in the future.

28
29 Stacey DeLorenzo agreed that the on-street parking was too valuable to restrict. She said that the
30 concept for a transit corridor on Mathews Avenue was dropped as a viable option in subsequent
31 versions of the transportation plan.

32
33 Mr. Shonkwiler stated that the issue on Mathews Avenue was a legitimate concern and he thanked Ms.
34 Adams for bringing the concern to the attention of City staff. He said that staff found a low-cost
35 solution to improve and enhance the safety of the crossing.

36
37 Ms. DeLorenzo asked if motorists might start using the crosswalk area as a waiting area for people.

38
39 Mr. Shonkwiler said that if a situation occurred where vehicles were parking at the location of the
40 crosswalk, parking restrictions could be considered.

41
42 Ms. DeLorenzo said that University of Illinois' service vehicles parked in that area when working in
43 areas near Mathews Avenue since parking spaces were difficult to find. She asked if the taper in the
44 design for the bumpout could be eliminated to create a larger crosswalk area since that area was
45 frequently used as a parking area for Facilities and Services staff working in that area. She added that
46 the U of I was planning to update the jurisdictional matrix for infrastructure maintenance once the

1 major projects were completed. She asked if the City of Urbana and the University of Illinois could
2 work on a project to improve the corridor for all users after other major projects within the campus
3 were completed.

4
5 Mr. Shonkwiler asked Ms. DeLorenzo if implementing the improvement on Mathews Avenue in the
6 spring would be acceptable.

7
8 Ms. DeLorenzo stated that she did not see any problem with the improvements to the crossing.

9
10 Mr. Shonkwiler asked Assistant Chief Fitzgerald if the Police Department could issue tickets to
11 motorists who parked in the crosswalk.

12
13 Assistant Chief Fitzgerald said that tickets could be issued if the crosswalk was painted in yellow.

14
15 Mr. Shonkwiler said that they would look into how to mark the crosswalk since it is illegal to park in a
16 crosswalk.

17
18 Eric Jakobsson asked how many parking spaces would be lost if the crosswalk was increased in width.

19
20 Mr. Shonkwiler said that there would be no loss of parking spaces. He said that one parking stall would
21 be removed on the west side and an additional parking stall would be added to the east side.

22
23 Ms. Beranek stated that there were no recorded crashes at the location.

24
25 Mr. Shonkwiler explained that the design of the crosswalk would give the illusion of the street
26 narrowing and possibly slow vehicles travelling on Mathews Avenue.

27
28 Chair Jakobsson said that slowing motorists would be sufficient to reduce speeds without actually
29 decreasing the speed limit.

30
31 Craig Shonkwiler moved to approve the installation of improvements recommended by Ms. Beranek
32 with modifications to increase the area of the crosswalk.

33
34 John Collins clarified that the City would construct the midblock crosswalk and the University would
35 maintain the crosswalk.

36
37 Ms. DeLorenzo said that she would add the location to the maintenance list, but the update of the
38 maintenance matrix would not occur until the MCORE project was completed.

39
40 Mr. Shonkwiler stated that the City would be responsible for the design and installation of the
41 crosswalk and then turn over maintenance responsibilities to the University of Illinois.

42
43 Ms. DeLorenzo agreed that the maintenance responsibilities for the crosswalk would be added to the
44 University's maintenance list.

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46 Assistant Chief Fitzgerald seconded the motion.

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2 The motion passed 3-0.

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4 A work order will be prepared to request the installation of the crosswalk.

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6 **Item #2- Discussion of parking restrictions at Abercorn Street and Rainbow View.**

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8 Ms. Beranek explained that a concern was submitted by a resident about vehicles parking along the east
9 and north sides of the curve connecting Abercorn Street and Rainbow View. She stated that even
10 though the speed limit was 30 miles per hour, the on-street parking and curve within the Savannah
11 Green subdivision would not permit one to drive safely at that speed. She said that during her
12 observations, she noticed one vehicle parked along the curve, but she added that most people did not
13 park in the curve. She mentioned that a fence located at 1205 South Abercorn Street limited visibility
14 for eastbound traffic as it approached the curve. She reported the occurrence of one crash within the
15 last six years. The crash was the result of the motorist's foot sticking on the accelerator and not the
16 result of vehicles parking on the curve. Ms. Beranek demonstrated an example of the visibility
17 restrictions for motorists as they drove around parked vehicles on the curve. She said that the option
18 of reducing the speed was considered, but the restriction of parking along the east and north sides of
19 the curve would be the better solution to increase safety.

20
21 Mr. Collins mentioned that there were not many residents living in the area next to the curve. He
22 wondered if those parking within the curve were visitors.

23
24 Mr. Shonkwiler said the adjacent area was a drainage area. He expressed concern that as motorists
25 travel north approaching the curve, the motorists would drive into the lane for the opposing traffic and
26 be unseen by those approaching from the north.

27
28 Moseka Mokonzi said that as many as three cars park along the curve. She added that she lived near
29 the curve and had parked there, but if parking were to be restricted, she would park elsewhere.

30
31 Assistant Chief Fitzgerald moved to restrict parking along the east and north sides of the curve on
32 Abercorn Street and Rainbow View.

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34 Mr. Shonkwiler seconded the motion.

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36 The motion was approved 3-0.

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38 This item will go the Council for consideration.

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41 With no other business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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43 The next regularly scheduled Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2019,
44 at 4:00 p.m. at the Urbana Public Works Department, 706 Glover Avenue, second floor conference
45 room.

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- 1 Respectfully submitted,
- 2 Barbara Stiehl, Recording Secretary