



Engineering Division
203 South Troy Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, in the commission chambers at City Hall, 203 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Godek at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present

Dan Godek, Chairperson
Carl Laubach, Vice Chairperson
Thomas Allen
Sean Dunlop
Samantha Grant
Joe Labataille
Austin Schneider
Clyde Esbri, Alternate

Also Present

Holly J. Donoghue, City Engineer
Jennifer Caudill, Municipal Clerk III

3. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023

Moved by: Samantha Grant

Supported by: Carl Laubach

Motion adopted unanimously

4. Public Comment

Chairperson Godek opened the floor to public comment. No one came forward.

5. Rescheduled Items/Old Business

5.A Results of November Traffic Committee Recommendations to city commission

Staff brought the November 28, 2023 Citizens Traffic Committee recommendations to the December 18, 2023 commission meeting. The city commission approved all items as recommended by the traffic committee. Additionally, for item 6D regarding the audible pedestrian signals on 13 Mile Road, the commission directed staff to expedite the design to allow for installation in 2024.

6. Agenda Items

6.A Petition to install speed humps on Northwood Boulevard between Woodward Avenue and Crooks Road

Staff plans to resurface Northwood Boulevard in 2024, and staff previously presented traffic calming options at the September 26, 2023 traffic committee meeting. Ultimately the city commission approved some minor calming improvements, and also declassified Northwood as a priority snowplow route. Now that Northwood is not a snowplow route, it qualifies for the installation of speed humps. Staff prepared a petition, which was circulated and returned for approval.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly Donoghue, P.E.

Chairperson Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue:

- Gail Mazzocco of 1514 Northwood spoke in favor of the speed humps. She thanked Holly and the committee members for listening to the residents' concerns seriously and spending a lot of time to find a solution for the neighborhood. She believes the speed humps will be effective in slowing down vehicles and reducing cut-thru traffic.
- Ian Caldwell of 1833 Northwood stated he was not in favor of the speed humps and specifically requested the one near his home be relocated or skipped/removed completely. He was worried about noise, property value, yellow signs and hinderance to emergency vechicles.
- Steve Jozwiak of 1622 Bonnieview spoke about his concerns with the speed humps. Stated bump outs would work better and are more aesthetically pleasing, he was concerned about property values lowering due to the humps. He was also concerned about the total quantity of humps along the corridor and the lack of police enforcement along the corridor.
- Nancy Sumner of 1502 Northwood spoke in favor of the speed humps. She feels they are the best option and solution for dealing with cut thru traffic and speeding vehicles. Thought that this Priority 3 street should have been plowed last week.
- Pat Craddock of 2109 Northwood spoke in favor of the speed humps due to the speeding issues. He does not like the idea of driving over so many humps each day going to work, but felt it was worth it for the safety of the neighborhood. He asked residents and the committee to consider the idea of closing Northwood at both Woodward and Crooks and if that was feasible.
- Ann Modelska of 2010 Northwood spoke, requesting the digital speed limit signs to help manage traffic speeds.
- Kate Pultz of 1805 Northwood spoke in favor of the bump outs and humps. She wanted to know where the speed humps signage was planned. She spoke about her own research which concluded that there is no loss in property value on streets with speed humps and stated that the noise is a non-issue. She asked if there will be a follow up study to determine the effectiveness of the humps, post installation.

- Pete Pultz of 1805 Northwood spoke regarding thoughts of the temporary closure this past summer at the railroad viaduct and how much of an effect that had on reducing cut-thru traffic and speeding. He wanted the committee to think about whether this could be a permanent closure. He also spoke about the difficulty for pedestrians to cross at Lloyd and requested a raised crosswalk there.

Chairperson Godek closed public comment.

The Traffic Committee recommends adopting the staff recommendation to install 16 speed humps as proposed on Northwood Boulevard between Woodward Avenue and Crooks Road with associated chevron road markings and “Speed Hump 20 MPH” signs.

Estimated cost: \$91,900

Moved by: Carl Laubach

Supported by: Sean Dunlop

Motion adopted unanimously

7. Information Only Items

8. Adjourn

Upon the motion of Austin Schneider, seconded by Sean Dunlop, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.
