



Minutes

Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting

July 23, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers Room 121
203 South Troy Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present: Carl Laubach
Clyde Esbri
Joe Labataille
Sean Dunlop
Thomas Allen
Michael Tash

Absent: Dan Godek

Staff Present: Holly Donoghue
Jennifer Caudill

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Carl Laubach at 6:29 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Preamble

Vice Chair Laubach recited the preamble for the Citizens Traffic Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to approve the previous minutes.

Ayes (5): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, and Michael Tash

Conflict (1): Thomas Allen

Motion Adopted (5 to 0)

4. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

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

5. Unfinished Business

5.a Request for Left Turn Signals on Crooks Road

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri

Seconded by: Sean Dunlop

Motion to accept staff recommendation to deny the request for dedicated left turn traffic signals at the intersections of Crooks/Normandy and Crooks/Lexington

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)

6. New Business

6.a Request to install a No Left Turn sign for the Hazelton Apartments driveway on Williams Street near mid-block pedestrian crossing

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Alan Ashley, president of Royal Oak Manor, provided pictures of the existing crosswalk and surrounding conditions, and gave history of what was at the Hazelton location prior. He is concerned about street parking blocking the view of pedestrians, and because residents of the manor are sometimes slower he is worried about cars zipping out of the Hazelton garage and striking residents.

Caroline M., resident of Royal Oak Manor, spoke about the many 'near misses' she has seen since moving into the manor four years ago. She also said there is a site distance issue at Seventh and Troy due to the buildings and you have to pull out into the intersection to see traffic. The parking space between the crosswalk and garage entrance should be removed so vehicles cannot block the view of the crosswalk for vehicles exiting the garage of the Hazelton.

Drew Hopkins of 128 E Seventh Street commented that if traffic is required to turn right out of building they can still get to Main or Troy to head north or south. This moves traffic away from residents at manor, the residential

homes on Seventh, and the recording studio and Jewish center on Seventh that sees a lot of pedestrian traffic.

Lorraine P., resident of Royal Oak Manor spoke, concerned about the poor lighting on Williams Street.

Robert Saul, resident of Royal Oak Manor, spoke in support of the other statements from Alan Ashley and residents.

Moved by: Sean Dunlop

Seconded by: Thomas Allen

Motion to approve staff recommendation to deny the request for 'No Left Turn' signage at the parking garage exit for 222 E. Sixth Street and add one pedestrian warning sign (W11-2) for southbound Williams Street traffic, located north of the existing mid-block pedestrian crossing; and also to remove the first parking spot north of the crosswalk on the east side of roadway.

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)

6.b Request for No Parking sign on the east side of Virginia Avenue at E. University Avenue

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri

Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to approve staff recommendation to install a 'No Parking Beyond' sign north of the driveway approach at 230 Virginia Avenue.

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)

6.c Request to remove guardrail adjacent to 3111 N. Main Street

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue. No one came forward.

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to accept staff recommendation to remove approximately 30 feet of guardrail in front of 3111 N. Main Street.

Ayes (5): Carl Laubach, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Nays (1): Clyde Esbri

Motion Adopted (5 to 1)

6.d Request to review traffic concerns on Kayser Avenue at E. Sixth Street intersection by Grant Park

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Chris Henning of 602 Kayser spoke about the plethora of activity in the park in spring and fall, and site distance issues due to all the cars parked near the corner. He often sees driver indecision issues because vehicles with the right-of-way and no stop sign will slow down at the intersection anyways when traveling on Kayser and this causes confusion if another vehicle is at or approaching the intersection.

Moved by: Sean Dunlop

Seconded by: Thomas Allen

Motion to accept staff recommendation to install 'Stop' signs on Kayser Avenue at E. Sixth Street to create a 4-way stop intersection, and to install 'All Way' plaques on all four stop signs; and to install a 'Stop' sign for northbound Lawson Street traffic at E. Sixth Street.

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)

6.e Request to install guardrail in public right-of-way on northbound Coolidge Highway adjacent to 2804 Coolidge apartment complex

The staff analysis and recommendation was presented by City Engineer Donoghue. Vice Chairperson Laubach opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

Ari Zartarian spoke in support of the staff recommendation, his tenants are concerned about their safety in their residences and his staff are concerned about performing property maintenance work near the roadway.

Moved by: Thomas Allen
Seconded by: Michael Tash

Motion to accept staff recommendation to install approximately 250 feet of guardrail a minimum of three feet from the curb, along the east side of Coolidge Highway just north of Trafford Road; to relocate the existing (W1-1) curve warning signs to be within 100 feet of the start of the curve for both northbound and southbound Coolidge Highway; and to install two additional chevron signs on the east side of Coolidge Highway within the road curvature area.

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)

7. Information Only Items

7.a Results of Previous Traffic Committee Recommendations

City Engineer Donoghue updated the committee on the commission's resolutions from the previous meeting's recommendations.

7.b Update on Morse Avenue and Harrison Avenue traffic counts

City Engineer Donoghue provided an update on the traffic counts on Morse Avenue and Harrison Avenue per the committee's request to re-study in one year from their initial recommendation. The speed and volume results were very similar between the two studies, and the crash report did not indicate a significant issue on either corridor. No further analysis is recommended.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Moved by: Thomas Allen
Seconded by: Joe Labataille

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes (6): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (6 to 0)