



Royal Oak

Minutes

Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting

November 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers Room 121
203 South Troy Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

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

Absent: Austin Schneider

Staff Present: Holly Donoghue
Amy Kelly

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Godek at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call and Preamble

Chairperson Dan Godek recited the preamble for the Citizens Traffic Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the previous minutes.

Moved by: Sean Dunlop

Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)

4. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

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

5. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business at this time.

6. New Business

6.a Request to install dynamic speed feedback signs for southbound traffic on Campbell Road at Lessenger Elementary and Bishop Foley High School

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

No one came forward.

Motion to accept staff recommendation to remove the existing speed limit sign on the west side of Campbell Road south of Ottawa Avenue; to allow Madison Heights to install two dynamic speed feedback signs on Campbell for Bishop Foley High and Lessenger Elementary Schools in the Royal Oak right-of-way, with signs to be maintained by the City of Madison Heights.

Moved by: Carl Laubach

Seconded by: Thomas Allen

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)

6.b Catalpa Drive traffic study for future road improvements

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

Mike of 709 Catalpa stated he agrees with the refuge crossings for the kids, and he likes the bumpouts and refuge islands. He does not want the speed limit to change. He wants to keep it at 25. He also thought a raised intersection similar to the one on Gardenia would be a good idea.

Scott of 1026 Catalpa - thanked the committee for their work. He said the Michigan Vehicle Code cited was incorrect and that we should be referring to section 657.627.f. He does not want the speed limit raised and does not want to install any of the proposed improvements because keeping the speed limit at 25 will make the road safe enough.

Kyle of 922 Catalpa stated he likes all the proposed pedestrian improvements, but does not want the speed limit raised. He stated it can be difficult to back out of the single-car driveways, and raising the speed

limit will make it harder. He wants to keep it at 25 mph, raising it will lead to reduced reaction time for drivers.

David of 1624 Greenleaf stated that since the 2023 resurfacing of Vinsetta included reshaping the road with bumpouts, several vehicles have hit them causing tire blow outs, damage to cars, and accidents. He believes bicyclists have decreased safety with the bumpouts and they don't do anything to make the road safer. He wants stricter enforcement of speed limits. He does not want the speed limit raised.

John of 606 Catalpa stated he does not want the speed limit raised. He is indifferent to the bumpouts or pedestrian islands. He said perhaps the city should consider flashing pedestrian signs or Hawk signals to slow drivers down. He also felt that the turns at Maxwell are very unsafe because the viaduct bridge blocks the view of oncoming traffic.

Jana of 222 Orchard View stated that the bumpouts do calm traffic and do not cause accidents. She acknowledges cyclists have some concerns about the bumpouts. But she likes them and said we need to put in as many as we can. She does not want the speed limit raised.

Merritt of 1026 Catalpa stated that if residents of Royal Oak keep needing to put the leaves on street for pick up, then people will not see the bumpouts. She is afraid she will hit one while on her bike and liked the median islands better.

Engineering Donoghue summarized an email received earlier in the day from Christine of 703 Catalpa. The resident has concerns about the refuge island at Pleasant. She said the main sewer line runs down the middle of the road and if residents need to replace their sewer lead, the additional replacement costs would be an undue burden on the homeowner. There is already a street light and pedestrian sign there on her corner. Snow would pile up on the island and she was concerned about who would remove the snow. The addition of a sidewalk on her median would create more responsibility for her.

Chairperson Godek closed public comment.

The committee discussed the various options.

Motion to partially accept staff recommendations to incorporate pedestrian crossing improvements along Catalpa Drive as part of the future road project, to leave the speed limit at 25 mph for now, and to reevaluate the speed limit on Catalpa Drive after the road improvements are completed.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri

Seconded by: Michael Tash

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

Nays (1): Sean Dunlop

Motion Adopted (6 to 1)

6.c Request to install lane assignment signage for the northbound Main Street-Rochester Road-Gardenia Avenue intersection

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

Motion to accept staff recommendation to remove the current lane assignment sign for northbound Main Street located north of Hawthorn Avenue; to install two (2) lane assignment guidance signs for northbound Main Street lanes across the intersection of Gardenia Avenue to further indicate lane assignments.

Moved by: Joe Labataille

Seconded by: Sean Dunlop

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)

6.d Request to remove parking meters on W. Fourth Street between S. Laurel Street and S. West Street

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

Amy of 525 W Fourth stated she received a parking ticket in July. Because residents of her building have to park on neighboring streets, it creates friction with other residents, especially the other apartment building on the corner of Fourth and Laurel because she cannot park closer to her building. She said even at night, no one is using the parking meters.

Terry of 525 W Fourth stated that no one is parking at the meters all day long, she also received a parking ticket. She said the cost to park at the meters and/or parking structure is too expensive on a daily basis. She has had hip surgery and worried about walking long distances and walking in the dark to her apartment. It would cost her \$12 per day to pay to park at the meters.

Paul of 525 W Fourth stated he supports removing the meters. He has also noticed the increase in parking tickets. He said the meters are empty very often.

Motion to accept staff recommendation to remove all parking meters on W. Fourth Street between S. Laurel Street and S. West Street.

Moved by: Thomas Allen
Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)

6.e Request to install ADA sidewalk ramps and crosswalk on Orchard View Drive at N. Washington Avenue

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

Charlie of 222 Orchard View stated his driveway is unsafe for pedestrians. He is in favor of this change, and thinks it will benefit everybody in the neighborhood. He felt that adding the pedestrian warning signs were overkill and perhaps not needed.

Teddy of 222 Orchard View stated he goes on walks and runs and there is no clear path to cross the street. He said he has tripped over the curb bump in driveway and wants the improvements.

Janet of 222 Orchard View stated she supports these changes.

Motion to accept staff recommendation to install north/south ADA sidewalk ramps along the west side of the N. Washington Avenue at Orchard View Drive and two (2) W11-2 and W16-7P signs.

Friendly amendment from Chairperson Godek to remove the installation of the signs from the recommendation. Accepted by motion maker.

Motion to partially accept staff recommendation to install north/south ADA sidewalk ramps along the west side of the N. Washington Avenue at Orchard View Drive.

Moved by: Clyde Esbri
Seconded by: Thomas Allen

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)

7. Information Only Items

7.a Results of Previous Traffic Committee Recommendations

The City Engineer Donoghue informed the committee about the previous city commission approvals from the September 2024 meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dan Godek at 7:57pm.

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Seconded by: Carl Laubach

Ayes (7): Carl Laubach, Clyde Esbri, Dan Godek, Joe Labataille, Sean Dunlop, Thomas Allen, and Michael Tash

Motion Adopted (7 to 0)