

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Monday, September 24, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – Village Hall

1. Call to Order

Chair Chalabian called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Jack Chalabian, James Thompson, Robert Taylor, Roya Basirirad

Absent: Meghann Moses, Kyle Eichenberger

Staff: Public Works Civil Engineer/Transportation Commission Staff Liaison Mike Koperniak, Transportation Engineer Jill Juliano, Parking and Mobility Services Division Manager Will Gillespie, Recording Secretary Dorothy Benson-Baker

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Brian Crawford a 30-year resident of Oak Park and advocate of Bike-Walk Oak Park representing 200 plus members discussed:

- A recent meeting concerning the rise of pedestrian and car crashes around District 97. There is a need to look at the Pedestrian Bike Safety Plan.
- Supporting the Madison Road Diet Project and he encourages the Transportation Committee to support the viable project.
- Funds saved by the cancellation of the Bicycle Divvy Program should be reallocated to the 2019 Pedestrian Bike Safety Infrastructure Improvement Plan. Brian asked the Commissioners to join in with him.
- He left a handout for the Commissioners to review.

3. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Approval of Draft Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the draft July 9, 2018 Transportation Commission meeting minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

5. PETITION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON THE 1200 BLOCKS OF NORTH LOMBARD AND NORTH TAYLOR AVENUES

Jill Juliano, Transportation Engineer, gave a presentation on the proposed petition.

Staff is recommending installation of either a mid-block speed table or a mid-block pinch point choker for the 1200 North Lombard and 1200 North Taylor blocks.

After the presentation, the Commissioners discussed:

- The possibility of installing temporary chokers for testing purposes
- The non-bike-friendly traffic calming options
- How traffic calming devices work
- Fire and Police Departments' reactions to potential changes on the 1200 blocks of North Lombard and North Taylor
- The reason these two options were chosen by staff
- The number one priority of this petition
- How the tool box categories and ranks were chosen in the table matrix
- The reason why a speed table device might be used over a choker
- The reason why a mid-block choker might be installed as opposed to an end of the block choker

The floor was opened to public testimony.

John McClurg of the 1200 block of North Taylor has been a resident for a few years and has a 6 year old daughter. Mr. McClurg has observed speeding cars (driving 35-40mph and sometimes faster) near Taylor and LeMoyne. He has seen cars neglecting to stop at the stop signs. John supports the petition.

Angela Schell of the 1200 block of North Lombard first petitioned for a traffic calming device in 2005. She has heard that North Ave will be the bypass for I-290 and believes traffic will increase in volume. Although she does not want to enhance pollution, Angela is in favor of the choker for volume control.

Ben Bottorff of the 1100 North Lombard block opposes traffic calming measures as they cause motorists to speed up after the device. Ben would like removal of the existing devices along

North Avenue to lower pollution and noise and he would like to see an increase in speed enforcement. However, Ben does support the choke point over the speed table.

Heather Corwin of the 1200 block of North Taylor indicated she is in favor of the choker. She is a new resident and is concerned about speeding. She is surprised at the low crash rate at LeMoyne and she agrees we have to do something to slow down traffic.

Lynn Relf of the 1200 block of North Taylor witnessed a child getting hit on a bicycle when she first moved into the area. Her daughter runs track but will not run on this block due to speeding cars and motorists who ignore stop signs. Lynn is in favor of the choke point.

Mario Macias is a resident of the 1200 block of North Taylor and has kids. He is surprised that a driver can get up to 30mph going southbound on one block. Mario is concerned for all the 11 children in elementary school and younger and a number of teens. He mentioned this block had previously petitioned for a cul de sac in 2015. It is one of the cut through streets. Mario spoke about how unfortunate that speed tables would have to be a cost to the homeowners.

Robin Schwadron lives at LeMoyne and Taylor. She is very concerned about cars that roll through the stop signs at LeMoyne and Taylor. She supports some type of traffic calming measure such as speed bumps and would also like to see signs along North Avenue.

Stewart Schwadron lives at LeMoyne and Taylor. He also is concerned about the cars that roll through stop signs. He added businesses along North Avenue has created a pinch-point by North Avenue due to parked cars which causes speeding as drivers try to make up for lost time.

Kevin Reynolds lives at the corner of Lombard and LeMoyne. He has noticed a growing number of children in the neighborhood. He agrees speeding is a constant problem and he is also concerned about rolling stops at Lombard and LeMoyne.

The floor was closed to public testimony.

The Commission further discussed:

- The apparent audience preference is for a choker calming device over a speed table
- Having a temporary choker for testing purposes and how long it would take to install
- The costs to implement a traffic calming device
- The use of bike-friendly chokers
- Rolling stops and how to deal with the problem
- The fact that traffic calming devices have been proven to work in lowering speed
- The use of a bike friendly choker that can be installed quickly

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to install a temporary bike-friendly choker on both blocks until permanent bike-friendly chokers are installed. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion.

The voice vote was as follows:
Ayes: Taylor, Thompson, Basirirad, Chalabian
Nays: None

Motion passed with a 4 to 0 vote.

6. DEVELOP DRAFT 2019 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

The floor was opened to public testimony.

Chris Donovan of the 700 block of South Elmwood spoke about:

- The Madison Road Diet
- The Village Board of Trustees recently gave contract to do traffic calming on Jackson and Washington
- He feels the Village of Oak Park has not done complete streets evaluation of the Work Plan

The Commissioners discussed items on the Draft 2019 Work Plan and developed a table for submission to the Village Board of Trustees for approval.

Adjourn

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Basirirad. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Dorothy Benson-Baker

Dorothy Benson-Baker,
Administrative Secretary