

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Transportation Commission
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Council Chambers - Village Hall

1. Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: Camille Fink, Jenna Holzberg, Julie Johnston-Ahlen, Brian Straw, Ron Burke

Absent: None

Staff: Staff Liaison Jill Juliano

2. Agenda Approval

Commissioner Straw made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Draft March 14, 2023 Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Holzberg made a motion to approve the draft March 14, 2023 Transportation Commission meeting minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Straw. The motion was approved 4 to 0 by a voice vote, with one abstention (Commissioner Johnston-Ahlen).

4. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Jason Nudelman spoke about issues he experiences while trying to cross the Ontario St and Harlem Ave intersection during his commute to work. He explained that the beg buttons trigger both legs of the intersection, so if you don't push it at the right time, it triggers a walk signal for the unintended intersection. He also mentioned that drivers turning southbound onto Harlem Ave often do not yield to pedestrians and he gets stuck in the intersection while trying to cross, including tonight while commuting to this meeting. He asked that the Village consider installing bump-outs at this intersection as he believes they would make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street.

This comment was mistakenly thought to be for an agenda item and was therefore given at the end of the meeting.

5. Old Business

5a) PETITION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE ON THE 200 BLOCK OF NORTH LOMBARD AVE (CONTINUATION FROM THE MARCH 14TH TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING)

Staff Liaison Jill Juliano shared background information on the item and provided a recap of the information that was discussed at the March 14, 2023 meeting. Based on public testimony and the fact that Erie St is part of the Neighborhood Greenways network, the Commission asked staff at the previous meeting to come back with additional temporary options for the Commission to consider. The first option presented by staff included temporary bump-outs on the southern leg of N Lombard Ave and the western leg of Erie St, as well as an upgrade to a continental crosswalk or high-visibility crosswalk markings on the western leg. The second option included a temporary bump out on the southern leg of N Lombard Ave and an upgrade to a continental crosswalk or high-visibility crosswalk markings on the western leg. Both options will employ the use of paint and posts (pavement markings and delineators), which will likely be installed by a contractor as staff does not have experience with the new type of pavement markings that would be used.

Following the presentation, the Commission asked questions regarding the item. Below is a summary of the questions and staff responses.

Q: Are the green markings for bike lanes not MMA (methyl methacrylate)? A: Yes, but all of the ones I've been involved with have been done by others.

Q: There aren't four bump-outs, only three? A: We discussed the options and what is necessary based on what the concerns were and where the majority of the pedestrians were crossing. Since N Lombard Ave is a collector street, it's important make sure that traffic is not impacted in a way that diverts it to adjacent residential streets.

Q: Is the estimated cost per bump-out? A: No, the majority of it is to have a contractor come out. Once we're able to do this in-house, the cost will obviously go down.

Q: With option one, could there be an implementation that would allow for spacing so that bikes could pass through the painted section? A: I don't think you'd want that because this is for protection. The idea is for this to be like a bump-out and we wouldn't want a vehicle or a bicycle to go through it.

Q: If the Commission ultimately goes with option one as its recommendation, do you expect there to be a competing recommendation from staff? A: I don't think it would necessarily be a competing option, but I think the differences between the two and any concerns would be mentioned.

Q: Why does staff prefer option two over option one? A: It's about the fact that a bike lane might eventually be put in here and a bump-out on Erie St would then impact that bike lane.

The Commission discussed the following topics:

- The importance of considering the Greenways Plan, but not allowing it to constrain what implementations can be done at intersections that run along the Greenways
- If a bike lane will even be necessary on this section of Erie St
- The importance of all aspects and modes of the Greenways Plan, not just those related to bicycling
- How to best improve the safety of this intersection without substantially impacting the safety of surrounding streets

Martha Irvine suggested that speed bumps might be helpful since they are so close to Austin Blvd. She also mentioned that she is in favor of raised crosswalks, additional Police presence, and speed monitoring if those might still be options. She also noted that the crossing guard at N Ridgeland Ave and Erie St deserves a medal because she is amazing and saves a lot of kids from trouble. Commissioner Straw asked if she had a preferred option and she responded that she'd prefer option one to see what kind of impact it has, especially since it's temporary.

Commissioner Straw made a motion to recommend option one with the addition of the use of temporary speed radar signs as they are available on this block of N Lombard Ave. It was seconded by Commissioner Holzberg.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Straw, Holzberg, Fink, Johnston-Ahlen, Burke

Nays: None

The motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

6. New Business

6a) PETITION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE AT THE INTERSECTION OF EAST AVENUE AND GREENFIELD STREET

Staff Liaison Juliano shared background information on the item, including when the petition was submitted and that it exceeded the number of points required on the scoring table to be presented to the Commission. The reasons for the petition include concern regarding pedestrian safety as motorists speed on East Ave, drivers on Greenfield St