



MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC, BICYCLE, & PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021, 5:30 PM
Virtual Meeting. Public may view via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains documents which provide call in information and instructions for the Zoom meeting.

B. ROLL CALL.

I. *Members:* Chairperson Matt Kuepers, Vice Chairperson Daniel Theno, Ald. Craig Stevens, Lieutenant Mike Sobieck, Brighid Riordan, and 2 vacancies.

Present and Voting: Craig Stevens, Daniel Theno, Brighid Riordan, Mike Sobieck

Present and Not Voting: Matt Kuepers

Excused: None

Absent: None

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

I. Approval of the Monday, February 15, 2021 Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission meeting agenda.

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Brigid Riordan, to approve the agenda of the Monday, February 15, 2021 Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission meeting.

Yes- Brigid Riordan, Craig Stevens, Daniel Theno, Mike Sobieck

No- None, Abstain- None

Motion carried.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

I. Approval of the Monday, January 18, 2021 Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission meeting minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Daniel Theno, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens, to approve the minutes of the Monday, January 18, 2021 Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission meeting.

Yes- Brigid Riordan, Craig Stevens, Daniel Theno, Mike Sobieck

No- None, Abstain- None

Motion carried.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

I. *Initial Request:* Consideration with possible action on a request by Gerry Piontek to install additional SPEED LIMIT 25 signs along Newberry Avenue between Bader Street and Main Street. (District 5 - Ald. Stevens)

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Lieutenant Mike Sobieck, to approve the recommendation of staff to install SPEED LIMIT 25 signs on Newberry Avenue at:

- (a) eastbound between Henry Street and Schober Street,
- (b) eastbound between Huth Street and Jacob Street,
- (c) westbound between Reimer Street and Huth Street, and
- (d) westbound between Henry Street and De Leers Street.

Yes- Brigid Riordan, Craig Stevens, Daniel Theno, Mike Sobieck

No- None, Abstain- None

Motion carried.

F. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Next meeting: Monday, March 15, 2021.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

I. Adjournment of the current Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Daniel Theno, seconded by Commissioner Brigid Riordan, to adjourn the current meeting of the Traffic, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Commission.

Yes- Brigid Riordan, Craig Stevens, Daniel Theno, Mike Sobieck

No- None, Abstain- None

Motion carried.

VERBATIM MINUTES

- The meeting of the Green Bay Traffic Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission for Monday, February 15th, 2021. Under item A, in a Zoom meeting again this month, so hopefully that's working for all. We'll move along to B, Roll Call. Chairperson Kuepers is here, present. Vice Chairman Theno?

- [Dan] Here.

- Alderman Stevens?

- [Craig] Here.

- Lieutenant Sobi-check?

- Sobieck, here.

- Sobieck, I still didn't get that right yet, did I, Mike? You're just gonna be Mike from on, is that okay?

- That works.

- Sobieck. I even made a note last month to call you Sobieck. Sorry about that.

- Moving along, Chairperson Riordan?

- Here.

- Okay. I think we're all present and accounted for then. Approval of the Agenda?

- [Craig] Motion to approve.

- Second.

- Second.

- Not much choice in the agenda. So let's go D, Approval of Minutes, approval of the Monday, January 18th, 2021, Traffic Bicycle Pedestrian Commission Meeting Minutes. Do I hear a motion to approve?

- [Dan] So moved.

- Motion, do I hear a second?

- [Craig] Second.

- Motion made and seconded. All in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Motion carries. Let's move on to our one item under Regular Business. Initial request, consideration with possible action on a request by Gerry Piontek to install additional Speed Limit 25. Bader Street and Main Street. So, Dave, do you want to start, or do you want Alder Craig to start?

- Sure, I'll just provide you some background on it. We did get the official request. They had a letter, the letter's actually contained as an attachment to the agenda. I'm not gonna really read it, but it in essence is just summarized by the agenda request. The background on this is that Newberry Avenue is a collector street, designated as a collector street. One of the streets intersecting is Henry Street, that's also a collector street. And has a pretty long span from Oakdale to Eastman Avenue. There is a four-way or a multi-way stop at

Newberry and Huth, a second intersection. So, pretty standard for us to, when we have collectors meet, collectors with four-way stops, to install speed limit signs for those motorists turning off of those collectors onto other collectors, that and at other four-way stops. So we do have two of those intersections. So two intersections would mean four signs. So I'm making a recommendation to install four, a total of four Speed Limit 25 signs on Newberry Avenue. One would be eastbound between Henry Street and Schober Street. One between Huth and Jacob Streets. A third would be westbound between Reimer and Huth Streets. And lastly, a fourth, westbound, between Henry Street and De Leers Street.

- It's already 25 miles per hour in that area, correct? It's just adding the signs?

- Correct, there is no change of speed limit. It is just simply adding some speed limit signs that are being requested, and upon review, staff felt it was an agreeable request. They had basically, I think, wanted them pretty much in front of their house, the requestor's house, but we looked at it and just more right-sized it to how we would install signs.

- [Craig] I think the goal there, on Newberry, regarding the resident that lives there and everybody else on Newberry, is trying to get that traffic to slow down through there. So I think adding these extra signs would be a move in the right direction.

- [Dan] Well, are you moving, Alder?

- [Craig] Yes, I'll make a motion to approve. Or recommend its approval.

- Okay, motion made.

- And I'll second.

- Do I hear a second? Or is there any other comment on this issue? Dan, did you have something to add or you just want to move it along?

- [Dan] I'll second the motion.

- Okay, motion made and seconded. All in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Okay, the motion carries As quick as it, to the next item there. Next meeting Monday, March 15th.

- [Dan] Mr. Chairman?

- So, if anybody knows that they won't be at that one at this point yet or? March is a busier month for getting out of town.

- [Dan] Mr. Chairman?

- Yes?

- [Dan] What about that area we've got Alder Stevens on? I think it's still in his district, but maybe not. We had talked about this three or four years ago, and that is the stop and go lights at Deckner and Henry. I went through there again this afternoon on my way out to UWGB to get my vaccination. And I really don't know why we have stop and go lights at Henry and Deckner We had, again, talked about that a couple of years ago. Dave, you mentioned at one time that there was going to be a citywide study as to whether or not some of these stop and go lights are necessary. What are your inclinations at this point with that project and also specifically that intersection?

- I guess for clarification, we actually have conducted two citywide signal removal projects since I've been here as traffic engineer. We do not have any slated for the future. However, that does not mean that there cannot be an evaluation conducted at particular signalized intersections that are questionable, by members of the public, by alders, et cetera. And if they would like staff to review that, they can simply put a request in to staff, a question to the Traffic Bicycle Pedestrian Commission to those signals for removal.

- I have a question--

- Well, I don't know if that's in your district, Craig or not?

- [Craig] It is, it's in my district.

- [Dan] I don't see the purpose of those stop and go lights there. It's really, really does not have a safety purpose, as I can see, or a traffic flow purpose. And at the time we talked about that before, Amy Koca objected to it because she had heard from one constituent that wanted to keep the lights and we kind of dropped it. So anyways, I wanted to just throw that out for people to start thinking about it.

- Dave, is that something we should have an agenda item for the next meeting?

- I guess it hasn't really been on staff's radar relative to removal of the signal. However, I think Dan brings up some good points. I think the traffic is probably a little. At any of our signalized intersections, and we won't really know unless we conduct a signalized evaluation or a warrant evaluation of that particular intersection. I can tell you that based off of last meeting, as you know, we had the informational item regarding Dousman and Gray, and you certainly do get a lot of attention when it comes down to conducting trials, 'cause, I would look at, let's presume we have a similar situation with Deckner and Henry like we do with Dousman and Gray, where staff evaluates it, finds out signals are not warranted, but then we find out either a two-way or a four-way stop would be more desirable at that intersection. When we start flashing the signal, we could potentially have compliance issues. I know Lieutenant Sobieck could probably expand on that. 'Cause I know that his officers in his unit have been out at Dousman and Gray. And I can tell you we've had, at least at the onset, was a little bit more of a challenge to get compliance. I think that at least from what I've observed since we've made some signing improvements, we flagged the advanced warning signs. We added some Stop Ahead signs. We actually put Stop All Ways underneath the near right traffic signals that are flashing. And every time I've gone through since it seems to be actually working quite well. But the bottom line is you're gonna get a lot of interest. I can already tell you I've talked to the media on this. I had an interview last week, and it was on WBAY Action 2 News. And most of the feedback that I'm getting is negative on it. I'm not really sure why, 'cause I think it's actually, the trial is successful at this point. Like I said, I expected a little bit of a learning curve. I expected some non-compliance in the beginning, that just happens from the complacency of the motorists that utilize that intersection every day. However, we are seeing an improvement, which is again, something I expect. So with all that being said, is Deckner Henry a candidate? I can't tell you for certain. But I can tell you that it, based off of my anecdotal knowledge of the collection of traffic counts that we've done there over the years, that it ranks lower in the entering volume category than many of our other signalized intersections. That doesn't mean, and volumes are only one thing. Crash and safety is another big one. And I can tell you that at Dousman and Gray, that was probably the predominant issue that was going on at that intersection, and why we brought this up. We're trying to correct a problem of 33 crashes in five years at that location. So, you have something like Deckner Henry, I don't know all that data off of the top of my head. We do collect it. I'd have to summarize it and put it into a study. So I guess that's something that, after this meeting, if Alder Craig Stevens, that's your district if you want to have a discussion about that intersection, I'd be more than happy to have that with you. And Dan, if you got any other feedback on it as well. Obviously my phone is available for your calling and we can have a discussion on that. And who knows? Maybe it becomes a project.

- [Craig] I would be interested in taking a look at it, that intersection.

- Okay. I'm looking here at council agenda, or a council timeframe here. It looks like council meets on Wednesday or two days from now. So Craig, if you are indeed interested in that. At the council level and we'll process the request and we could actually hear this as early March's meeting.

- [Craig] All right.

- [Dan] Thanks, Craig.

- [Craig] Yeah, you're welcome.

- Okay. Anything else for the cause tonight? Okay, if not, I will entertain a motion to adjourn?

- [Dan] So moved.

- Motion made, do I hear a second?

- Second.

- Second, okay. All in favor?

- [All] Aye.

- Motion carries. We are adjourned till March 15th.