

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

March 16, 2010

5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Carol Houck, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins, Marvin Howard

Guests: Alex Meitzler, Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Hal Prettyman, Newark Landlord

1. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE INTERSECTION OF W. MAIN STREET AT ELKTON ROAD DUE TO MOTORISTS NOT YIELDING.

Mr. Meitzler said DelDOT is in the process of preparing a bid package of plan specs and estimates for the Elkton Road project. Mr. Meitzler spoke with Shante Hastings of DelDOT, and shared that she would be open to reviewing the Traffic Committee's recommendations on signage and striping. Ms. Hastings requested that a sketch be forwarded to her for review. Mr. Meitzler said he intends to email a final sketch to Ms. Hastings by tomorrow, March 17, 2010.

Mr. Meitzler spoke to Mark Luszc (Assistant Traffic Engineer with DelDOT) in regard to painting route numbers on the pavement. Mr. Luszc said this is not typically done however; recommendations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Meitzler and Lt. Stanko agreed to add another set of route number pavement markings on Main Street closer to N. College Avenue to provide advance direction to motorists. Mr. Meitzler will forward this recommendation to both Shante Hastings and Mark Luszc of DelDOT for consideration.

Mr. Meitzler said he would draft a memo to the City of the more costly improvement recommendations discussed for future DelDOT capital project consideration. (ie: overhead signs, curb replacement, resetting of handicap ramps) Carol Houck feels that these items should be the responsibility of DelDOT.

Carol Houck said the Traffic Committee's recommendations would be shared with Council, with the expectation that we would be receiving input from DelDOT in regard to these recommendations.

Rich Lapointe does not feel the sketch addresses the main concern of motorists not yielding. Mr. Meitzler said yield lines at the crosswalk have been added.

Carol Houck inquired as to a yield ahead sign. Alex Meitzler said there is currently a yield ahead sign located on a telephone pole that is not in a visible location. Rich Lapointe suggested relocating this sign to make it more visible.

Rich Lapointe said he agrees DelDOT should complete the work, and realizes that typically signing and painting are the last items to be completed and would to emphasize that the improvements are completed as soon as possible.

Rich Lapointe said as part of the Main Street transportation enhancements all the crosswalks were stamped brick rather than the piano keys. The concern is that by installing piano keys not consistent with the use of stamped brick crosswalks. Mr. Meitzler said he was trying to keep the improvements to paint, to avoid having to dig up the road surface.

MOTION BY LT. GEORGE STANKO, SECONDED BY CAROL HOUCK, FOR PENNONI ASSOCIATES TO FORWARD THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO DELDOT FOR REVIEW.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.

Carol Houck asked Mr. Meizler to forward the final recommendations to her prior to submitting to the Delaware Department of Transportation for review.

2. REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK ON LOVETT AVENUE AT THE AMAZING GRACE CHURCH FROM THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH TO THEIR PARKING LOT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

Rich Lapointe said the church has painted lines on the roadway. Rich Lapointe spoke to a representative from the church and suggested that parishioners perform a traffic count. However, he does not feel there is enough traffic to warrant a crosswalk at this location.

Dave Gula said he travels this street often between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and said usually there is only one car on this particular section of the street at one time. He said there is a stop sign on this road that prevents motorists from driving fast.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED RICH LAPOINTE, TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF THE AMAZING GRACE CHURCH ON LOVETT AVENUE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0

3. REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK ON N. COLLEGE AVENUE WHERE THE SIDEWALK TERMINATES ON THE WEST SIDE.

Hal Prettyman said he is an owner of the Cider Mill project. Mr. Prettyman said the pedestrian traffic coming up N. College Avenue has increased tremendously in the past three years, and feels will only continue to increase in the years to come. Mr. Prettyman would like to see the sidewalk extend on the west side to the corner.

Mr. Prettyman said he contacted DelDOT in the past and offered to contribute \$15,000 toward the cost of the project. DelDOT said the \$15,000 would only cover the cost of sidewalk and that DelDOT was going to require a retaining wall and that the storm sewer pipe be installed underground. Furthermore, they wanted the handicap ramps installed at the intersection of Prospect and N. College Avenue. Mr. Prettyman said at that time, estimates to perform the work would cost approximately \$65,000. Mr. Prettyman said with the suggestion of Rich Lapointe, he approached politicians for community road funding to help offset the cost, which was not successful.

Mr. Prettyman said for example, pedestrians walk around the corner off of North Street to N. College and where the sidewalk terminates pedestrians are walking out into the street, rather than crossing the street to access the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Prettyman said pedestrians are wearing headphones, talking on the cell phones and as a result poses a safety concern. He also noted the stormwater has washed out the road in this area, which causes pedestrians to walk out even further into the roadway. Mr. Prettyman said handicap ramps currently exist at this location.

Mr. Prettyman is aware that in the past DelDOT was not comfortable installing mid-block crosswalks, however is now aware that DelDOT is starting to consider mid-block crosswalks.

Mr. Prettyman said in regard to agenda item no. 1, he has attended many meetings with CSX and felt if the City approached CSX for railroad crossing signage they may provide and install the signs. Mr. Prettyman feels it would be their advantage from a liability standpoint. Mr. Prettyman would provide Alex Meitzler with a contact for CSX.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED DAVE GULA, TO SEND A LETTER TO DELDOT REQUESTING A CROSSWALK ON N. COLLEGE AVENUE WHERE THE SIDEWALK TERMINATES ON THE WEST SIDE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY LT. STANKO, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.


Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman