

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
April 19, 2011
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Capt. Elwood Williams, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Marvin Howard

Members Absent: Carol Houck
Dave Gula
Tom Parkins

Guest: Georgia Wampler, Newark resident

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING A POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAL IN FRONT OF THE PERKINS STUDENT CENTER ON ACADEMY STREET.

Capt. Williams stated that was filling in for Chief Tiernan and would be the Acting Chairman for this evening's meeting. The floor was opened for discussion.

Councilmember Athey introduced his constituent Georgia Wampler. Ms. Wampler would like a pedestrian signal to be installed that is similar to the signal located near Main Towers on Chapel Street. The signal would allow pedestrian and vehicular movements to alternate. Ms. Wampler said there have been times she has waited four minutes before there is vehicular movement. Ms. Wampler said pedestrians have the right of way and by installing a pedestrian crossing signal would provide a more regular give and take at this location.

Rich Lapointe inquired if this was due to the lunch hour. Ms. Wampler said she has noticed this occurrence on the hour during class change.

Rich Lapointe said he feels it would make good sense to install a pedestrian crossing signal at this location if it is warranted. Rich Lapointe said he would estimate the cost to be approximately \$30,000-\$40,000. Rich said the first step would be to have a consulting engineer conduct a study to determine that the signal is warranted. If it was determined that the signal was warranted, more than likely it would need to be considered in the Capital Budget to be approved by Council.

Capt. Williams said there have been consistent rumors that the University of Delaware may take over Academy Street and should be considered before a decision is made to move forward.

Marvin Howard said it is possible that the University of Delaware may consider entertaining this themselves.

Councilmember Athey said in the past he had a request for a crosswalk at the library crossing over Winslow Road. Councilmember Athey said he could not recall whether or not he brought it to the Traffic Committee. Councilmember Athey said DelDOT's view is that mid-block crosswalks provide a false sense of security, however he disagrees and feels that if pedestrians are crossing there it would make sense to delineate and provide signage so that it is noticeable to motorists.

Ms. Wampler said motorists are very respectful and patient upon waiting for pedestrians to cross. Lt. Stanko said there have been zero accidents since 2007 at this location that have involved pedestrians.

Councilmember Athey said the University of Delaware has hired a consultant to look into Academy Street closure with a report that will be issued in June. Councilmember Athey suggested putting this request on hold and revisiting the recommendation at that time.

Councilmember Markham said with the bookstore moving it is possible the pedestrian traffic pattern may change.

Lt. Stanko said a traffic speed count was conducted one week in September of 2010. Within a seven day period a total of 24,926 vehicles were counted on Academy Street.

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY MARVIN HOWARD TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE JULY MEETING.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 3 TO 1.

2. REQUEST TO REVIEW TRAFFIC LANE STRIPING ON CHAPEL STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN STREET.

Councilmember Markham said what used to be the former Commerce Bank turn lanes were installed on Chapel Street. Councilmember Markham said the left turn lane is aligned with the straight through lane in the opposing direction. Councilmember Markham said he is requesting to restripe on northbound Chapel Street to correct the misalignment of travel lanes.

Rich Lapointe said this item would be a recommendation to DelDOT. Rich Lapointe said in the northbound direction there is an offset due to parking on the side of road, however there would be enough room to paint a center island.

Councilmember Athey said he often notices dashed lines in an intersection. Councilmember Athey asked if an alternative solution would be to connect the stripes from one side to the other using a dashed line to show the narrowing of the travel lane.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY LT. STANKO TO REQUEST THAT DELDOT PAINT A CENTER ISLAND TO HELP ALIGN THE SOUTHBOUND LANE ON N. CHAPEL STREET WITH THE SOUTHBOUND LANE ON S. CHAPEL STREET.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0

2. DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CONTROL OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ON DELAWARE AVENUE.

Rich Lapointe said he received a complaint regarding some near misses that have occurred at Delaware Avenue and Haines Street.

Rich Lapointe said sharks teeth do not currently exist at the crosswalk on Delaware Avenue and Haines Street. Lt. Stanko said once Campus Edge is developed the pedestrian traffic will increase significantly. Councilmember Athey said at this time it has not been approved and will be decided at the Council Meeting on Monday, April 25, 2011.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY LT. STANKO TO REQUEST THAT DELDOT PAINT SHARKS TEETH AT THE CROSSWALK LOCATED AT DELAWARE AVENUE AND HAINES STREET.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0

OLD BUSINESS:

Marvin Howard said at last month's meeting a request was made by Kyle Sonnenberg, City Manager to consider parking meters under the S. College Avenue Bridge. Marvin confirmed that the property is owned by the City, and would recommend not installing parking meters at this location, however would recommend that the Traffic Committee make a request to the Parking Committee to consider long term parking under the S. College Avenue Bridge instead.

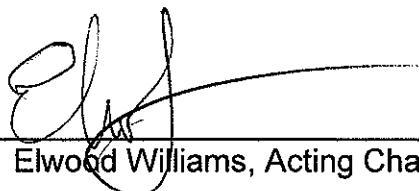
MOTION BY MARVIN HOWARD, SECONDED BY LT. STANKO TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARKING COMMITTEE CONDUCT FURTHER RESEARCH TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR LONG TERM PARKING UNDER THE S. COLLEGE AVENUE BRIDGE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0

There being no further business, Capt. Williams called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.



Elwood Williams, Acting Chairman