

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
February 18, 2014
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Capt. John Potts, Lt. Bill Hargrove, Andrew Haines, Tom Coleman, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins, Dave Gula

Guests: Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Michael Fortner, Development Supervisor
Matthew Mehrazar, Intern (City of Newark)
Mark Morehead, Councilmember
Albert Porach, Resident

1. NEWARK BICYCLE PLAN PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL FORTNER, DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Capt. Potts called the meeting to order.

Capt. Potts said Michael Fortner would present the Newark Bicycle Plan. Mr. Fortner distributed copies of the 2014 Newark Bicycle Plan to members.

Mr. Fortner said page three of the plan outlines the main goals and objectives of the plan and are as follows:

- Improve bicycle plan
- Improve bicycle transportation network
- Improve bicycle access to transit
- Encouragement component
- Improve safety
- Development and Implementation

Mr. Fortner said this was meant to be an addendum to 2011 Newark Transportation Plan.

Mr. Fortner said on page 37 there is a proposed bicycle network and different type of bicycle facilities for example; a two-way bike lane, sharrows, pathways (James Hall & Pomeroy Trails), etc.

Mr. Fortner said a new idea in the bicycle plan is a cycle track which is a two-way bicycle lane and is shown as the thick red line on Delaware Avenue. (page 42). This would be a long range goal in the plan. Mr. Fortner said the programs encourage safety for children and adults.

Mr. Fortner said on page 4 is a bar chart that categorizes the types of cyclists. This plan is designed to target and encourages the cyclists that may not feel completely safe.

Mr. Fortner said another important goal of the plan is to educate bicyclists of the proper rules of the road.

Mr. Fortner said the plan has been developed by the Newark Bicycle Committee with the assistance of DelDOT, WILMAPCO and local advocacy groups in the area. Mr. Fortner said Heather Dunigan is the principal author of the bicycle plan. The plan has gone through an extensive public review process which has included many workshops and has taken approximately a year and a half to develop.

Mr. Fortner said he would like to receive the Traffic Committee's support and recommendation with the hope to have the plan go before City Council this coming Monday. Upon council approval it will go to WILMAPCO's council for review to become an official document.

Mr. Parkins asked if input was received from the University of Delaware and if they were part of the planning process. Ms. Dunigan said they were part of the planning team and have been coordinating in house and with the city through the Newark Bicycle Committee. Ms. Dunigan said last spring they held some bicycling safety workshops offered by the University of Delaware Public Safety for the students as well as installing bicycling repair stations around campus.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY ANDREW HAINES TO ENDORSE THE 2014 NEWARK BICYCLE PLAN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.

Andrew Haines said the city is working with English Language Institute (ELI) to incorporate bicycle/pedestrian culture into their student orientation.

2. DISCUSS THE TIMING OF THE LIGHT AT S. COLLEGE AVENUE AND MAIN STREET REGARDING A RED LIGHT VIOLATION.

Lt. Hargrove said a violator sent a letter to the Chief of Police regarding a red light violation received on December 20, 2013 at 2:00 a.m. on Main Street at S. College Avenue. The violator was cited for running the second light and requested the timing of the lights be evaluated. The violator felt there was not enough time to clear both lights.

Lt. Hargrove this specific violation was captured on in-car video. Lt. Hargrove said Roy Simonson was sending an email to DelDOT regarding the timing of the lights.

Marvin Howard said he wonders if it is unclear to motorists as to whether they should stop at the second light.

(The Traffic Committee reviewed the in-car video)

Lt. Hargrove said the motorist in this video doesn't even attempt to stop. Mr. Gula feels the violator has a very valid point and would have caught the end of the yellow on the first light and beginning of the red of the second light. Mr. Coleman said DelDOT is looking at making the second light change after the first light.

Mr. Gula asked if this would require a separate control box. Lt. Hargrove said he doesn't believe so. Lt. Hargrove said the yellow light means slow down get ready to stop not hurry up and go through it. Mr. Gula said if you are passing through the first light on the yellow you're not sure how long you have until the second light turns red.

Capt. Potts confirmed we are waiting on DelDOT to adjust the timing of the lights. Tom Coleman said he believes DelDOT will adjust the timing of the lights.

3. REQUEST FOR A WALK LIGHT AT BARKSDALE ROAD AND CASHO MILL ROAD.

Mr. Morehead asked if everyone was familiar with Barksdale Road and Casho Mill Road between the parks. Mr. Morehead said this is large intersection with excess speed and long sidewalks along the sides of the road.

Mr. Morehead has received requests from constituents with families asking for the addition of walk lights. There have been no specific requests on the type of walk lights. Mr. Morehead said he has watched pedestrians cross the road in this area without a walk light and is a hindrance on this side of town.

Mr. Morehead said there is a crossing guard for the school and does not feel it would be used very often however feels it would be an enhancement for the quality of life.

Mr. Morehead would like to push a button and with a walk light perpendicular to the red light. Mr. Coleman said he would send an email regarding this request. The City of Newark will be meeting with DelDOT on April 15th. Mr. Coleman said DelDOT is planning a resurfacing project this summer in the area.

New Business:

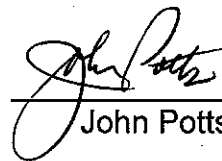
Mr. Morehead said he has heard constituents wanting to question the right turn on red after stop on New London Road and Cleveland Avenue. Mr. Coleman said he believes this location is signed "No Turn on Red" and is not in the municipal code. Mr. Coleman said it was discussed with DeIDOT about removing sign and they confirmed it was not their sign. Mr. Coleman said it is on the list of items to discuss with DeIDOT and more than likely will stay and will be brought before council to adopt into the code.

Old Business:

Mr. Porach said at the last Traffic Committee meeting he brought up a "No Turn on Red" sign that was removed on Library Avenue at E. Main Street. Mr. Porach assumed DeIDOT removed the sign and is concerned for the safety of pedestrians with motorists not stopping at the red light. Mr. Porach asked for an update. Mr. Coleman said this is another item DeIDOT is looking into. Mr. Coleman said the sign was removed because cars were backing up due to the "No Turn on Red" sign and speeding through the post office parking lot. Mr. Porach asked if it could be enforced that vehicles are not stopping at the red light. Lt. Hargrove said it is more like a stop sign if you are making a turn.

**MOTION BY LT. HARGROVE, SECONDED BY MARVIN HOWARD, TO
ADJOURN.**

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.



John Potts, Acting Chairman