

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2015

3:30 p.m.

Members Present: D.C. Kevin Feeney, Lt. Fred Nelson, Tom Coleman, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins

Guests: Andrew Haines
Dave Gula
Matt Buckley, DelDOT

1. REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF APPLE ROAD AT WINSLOW ROAD.

Tom Coleman said this is an unsignalized location a block from a signalized crossing. Tom Coleman said in general he is against unsignalized crosswalks as studies have shown an unsignalized crosswalk has proven to be more dangerous than no crosswalk at all.

Mr. Buckley said this is an issue that the industry as a whole struggles with. Mr. Buckley said there is a DelDOT meeting tomorrow regarding the new rapid flash beacons. Mr. Buckley said at this time there isn't a location in Newark they plan on installing the new rapid flash beacons.

Mr. Buckley said intersections with less than 14 pedestrians crossing in an hour doesn't get studied.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY TOM COLEMAN TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF APPLE ROAD AT WINSLOW ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

2. REQUEST FOR A RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT ON MADISON DRIVE.

Kevin Feeney said in previous conversations with Councilwoman Hadden a request for residential parking district on Madison Drive was discussed as a potential crime reduction strategy.

Tom Coleman asked if parking restrictions are currently in effect. Kevin Feeney said there currently are no parking restrictions on Madison Drive. Kevin said he is in favor of the request from a crime reduction standpoint.

Tom Parkins asked if this would require notification to the property owners. Marvin Howard inquired as to the parking situation that currently exists. Kevin Feeney said each residence has a driveway.

Marvin Howard suggested Councilwoman Hadden would like more information before the committee makes a decision to designate this location as a special residential parking district.

MOTION BY TOM PARKINS, SECONDED BY TOM COLEMAN, TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE REQUEST.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

3. DISCUSS THE PEDESTRIAN ONLY PHASE AT DELAWARE AVENUE AND S. COLLEGE AVENUE.

Tom Coleman said DelDOT has been working on a pedestrian only phase at Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue. Tom said in general it is expected to make the intersection safer.

Mr. Buckley said a Newark resident that is visually impaired lives on the west side of S. College walks up to Willard Hall and crosses to the east side at Park Place using the audible signals. The reason she walks on the east side is Kent Way and Amstel Way come in from the west. When she gets to the intersection at Delaware Avenue and struggles. DelDOT installs audible or pedestrian signals 100% of the time at the legitimate request of a visually impaired pedestrian.

Mr. Buckley said her request as well as request from UD regarding congestion at Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue. There is presently a no turn on red on east bound and north bound approach at Delaware Avenue. This creates a lot of frustration during class changes with pedestrians lawfully having the right of way and dominating the intersection.

Mr. Buckley said a couple of studies were conducted and concluded if exclusive time was dedicated to pedestrian movements at Delaware Avenue and College during class times is a wash. The vehicular capacity will be there and vehicles will go when they receive a green light and pedestrians will have an exclusive phase when they can maneuver. In the short term, the pedestrian phase needs to be recalled at every single cycle for ADA compliance.

Once DelDOT gets the money they plan to completely rebuild the intersection of Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue.

Mr. Buckley said he anticipates the potential frustration with the exclusive pedestrian only phase cycling with a No Turn on Red sign. Mr. Buckley said one suggestion is to make the No Turn on Red sign time restrictive. Kevin Feeney said his experience is there is a clear line of sight.

Marvin Howard inquired as to when DelDOT would anticipate having the funds to rebuild the intersection. Mr. Buckley believes work may begin in the summer of 2016.

Mr. Buckley said DelDOT could leave everything along and not do audible and still switch over to pedestrian only phase. Tom Parkins asked if this could be done this summer. Mr. Buckley confirmed that this would be done in the summer of 2015 as well as the all way cross at the intersection.

Marvin Howard asked how long the pedestrian and vehicular cycle would be. Mr. Buckley said it would be the same signal cycle however there will be an exclusive pedestrian phase added.

Mr. Buckley said the goal is to have the Main Street crosswalk by Grotto's constructed the summer of 2015. Tom Coleman said initially the Delaware Avenue was going to be done first, however due to University of Delaware concerns with aesthetics it was pushed back.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY MARVIN HOWARD TO ADD "NO TURN ON RED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 AM TO 6 PM (MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY)" AND INSTRUCT DELDOT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PEDESTRIAN ONLY PHASE AT DELAWARE AVENUE AND S. COLLEGE AVENUE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.



Kevin Feeney, Chairman