

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Meeting
September 20, 2016
3:30 p.m.

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

Guests: Josh Shannon, Reporter from Newark Post
Albert Porach, Newark resident

1. Request to change the yield sign to a stop sign on West Main Street at S. Main Street.

DC Feeney said this request was sent to Mayor Sierer from a constituent. DC Feeney said he spoke with the Mayor stating she has received concerns from constituents.

Lt. Nelson said there have not been any collisions at this location within the past year.

Mr. Howard said he travels this location several times a day and hasn't had any issues. Mr. Howard said he feels that adding a stop sign would create more issues. Mr. Haines said during a previous meeting, the Bike Committee made a recommendation to install bollards on S. College Avenue. Mr. Haines asked if installing bollards at this location would be effective from an engineering standpoint. Mr. Haines recommended placing bollards from the island to the end. Mr. Howard said his concern would be that motorists coming from W. Main Street may completely disregard the yield sign if it appears to be their exclusive lane.

Mr. Gula recommended repainting the stop bar that is wearing off the pavement to make it more visible. Mr. Coleman said Public Works could refresh the paint to make it more visible.

DC Feeney said all members seem to be on the same page that installing a stop sign at this location would be an issue and would potentially back up traffic.

DC Feeney asked if there is anything that can be done from a sign perspective. Mr. Coleman said he can check the size of the yield sign to see if it can be made any larger.

Motion by Mr. Haines, Seconded by Mr. Gula, to refresh the paint markings and review the yield sign for any improvements to size or text.

Mr. Coleman will review the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to investigate whether the word "Yield" may be placed on the pavement.

2. Request for a painted crosswalk and a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign at the intersection of East Park Place and South Chapel Street.

Mr. Coleman said currently there are no curb ramps or a crosswalk at this location. Lt. Nelson said if a crosswalk was installed he suggested a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign. Mr. Gula asked if the crosswalk could be installed across East Park Place. DC Feeney said this item was received by Mr. Porach.

Mr. Porach said there are three issues with this intersection. He said the first concern is the heavy brush that obstructs the view from vehicles traveling south. Mr. Porach said there is no crosswalk. Mr. Porach said the other issue is that right turns are permitted and is concerned for pedestrian safety. Mr. Porach is requesting a crosswalk and "Yield to Pedestrians" signs be installed.

DC Feeney agrees there is a significant amount of pedestrian volume during certain times of the day. DC Feeney said he agrees there is not a substantial amount of foot traffic crossing S. Chapel Street and feels this location does make the most sense. Mr. Coleman said he agrees with DC Feeney. Mr. Coleman said the ramp on the north side is essentially non-existent and the ramp on the south side is not ADA compliant.

Mr. Haines asked if there are any elevation issues with installing a proper ADA compliant ramp. Mr. Coleman said if new ramps would be installed this project would be added to next year's contract. Mr. Coleman said due to the liability he doesn't support striping until ramps are ADA compliant. Mr. Gula asked if a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign could be installed without having a crosswalk. Mr. Coleman said he would review the MUTCD to find out if that is redundant with having an existing stop sign.

Mr. Haines asked if a crosswalk can be installed now without being ADA compliant. Mr. Coleman said technically there is a crosswalk that currently exists. Mr. Coleman said by striping the existing crosswalk he doesn't believe they would be taking on any liability to do that now.

Mr. Porach asked if the brush could be taken care of. Mr. Coleman said Public Works will take care of this line of sight issue.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Lt. Nelson, to stripe the existing crosswalk, Mr. Coleman will research additional signing options and check the line of sight issue on the south side of Chapel Street.

Motion Passed. Vote: 7 to 0.

3. Request for an unsignalized crosswalk on Elkton Road at McIntyre Drive.

Mr. Coleman said the request should read, "Request for an unsignalized crosswalk on McIntyre Drive at Edwards Drive".

Mr. Coleman said he expressed concerns to the high school regarding installing a crosswalk on an industrial street. Mr. Coleman suggested installing a stop sign to make the intersection a 4-way stop. Mr. Coleman said the Newark Charter School representative said the reason for the request is to make it easier for students walking from Twin Lakes to Newark Charter School. Mr. Coleman said he doesn't believe this would be a high number of students that walk to the school. Mr. Howard asked if the main concern for making the request is for the track team that practices and crosses every day.

Mr. Haines asked if the vehicle classifier could be placed to determine the size and frequency of vehicles at this location. Mr. Coleman said he isn't comfortable installing an unsignalized crosswalk as they have been proven to be more dangerous. Mr. Haines asked if there is a school zone sign that could be installed. Mr. Coleman said they could install a reduced speed limit sign. Lt. Nelson asked if a "Watch for Children" sign could be installed. Mr. Coleman said they haven't been proven to reduce speeds. Mr. Howard said throughout the day this is a very low traffic area. Mr. Coleman said he would like to review the traffic counts.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Lt. Nelson, to install the traffic classifier on McIntyre Drive at Edwards Drive and table the request for a future meeting to review the results.

Motion Passed. Vote: 7 to 0.

4. Discussion regarding the possibility of increasing parking fines on Cleveland Avenue.

Mr. Haines said from the community relations side, constituents have reached out to the City Manager's Office and councilmembers regarding delivery trucks unloading in the street. Mr. Haines said the delivery drivers aren't concerned about receiving a fine.

Mr. Gula said some cities have made this type of violation a moving violation that would affect the drivers' driver's license. Lt. Nelson asked if the city has the authority as it would be overriding state law. Mr. Gula feels it would be worth looking into. Mr. Howard said the violators do not seem to be affected by the fine. Mr. Howard agrees it would be more effective to make it a moving violation.

Mr. Gula said one suggestion was to not start by issuing moving violations immediately, and begin by talking to the people that control deliveries with alternative solutions (ie: time, alternative locations, etc.) may also be effective.

DC Feeney said we can look into the moving violation approach, however he believes it will be a challenge. Mr. Haines said there are other fines within the city that could be equal to state statute or increasing the discipline with the hope to encourage better behavior.

Lt. Nelson said he researched fines and statutes within close proximity to the city and found fines ranging from \$30-\$50 for obstructing a travel lane. Lt. Nelson said he doesn't believe the statute we have matches what we charge for parking tickets. It reads, "No person shall, stop, stand or park a vehicle except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device in any of the following places:"

- a. At any place where such parking, standing or stopping obstructs the free passage of other traffic;
- b. Or upon a roadway of any highway when it is practical to stop, stand, or park off the roadway.

Lt. Nelson said he feels they both apply, however they could argue that where they are parking doesn't obstruct the free passage due to there being another lane. Lt. Nelson said the other argument may be that upon a roadway of any highway it is not practical to stop, stand or park somewhere else.

Lt. Nelson said they reviewed other areas statutes and drafted a new ordinance to increase the fine to \$100. Lt. Nelson this is an alternative to instituting a moving violation. The new ordinance would read as follows:

- I. No driver of any vehicle shall stop, stand or park such vehicle in the travel portion of any roadway for the purpose of loading or unloading parcels, packages or merchandise.
 - A. The following vehicles shall be exempt from this section:
 1. Buses discharging passengers;
 2. Official postal vehicles engaged in delivery of US Mail;
 3. Vehicles acting in the direction of a police officers

Mr. Coleman asked if it could be revised to read as follows, "I. No driver of any vehicle shall stop, stand or park such vehicle in the travel portion of any roadway or upon a sidewalk for the purpose of loading or unloading parcels, packages or merchandise. Lt. Nelson said it can be revised as necessary.

Mr. Gula said the University of Delaware's IPA performed a study and he will research and report back to the committee on the details of this study.

Motion by DC Feeney, seconded by Mr. Howard, to approve the new ordinance as proposed with the addition of bicycle lanes and sidewalks and to further research the feasibility of moving violations and/or other solutions relating to blocking a lane of travel.

Motion Passed. Vote: 7 to 0.

5. Discussion regarding a proposed protected bike lane and mid-block crosswalk at Apple Road between West Park Place and South Main Street.

Mr. Coleman said a request was received from Councilmember Hadden for a crosswalk at Winslow Road at Apple Road. Mr. Coleman said he met with the constituent regarding concerns on Apple Road and the general concern was residents wanting to get from Sunset Road or Winslow Road to Park and Shop shopping center and there not being a striped crosswalk. Mr. Coleman said there is a signalized crosswalk at S. Main Street but the feedback is it won't be used as it is too far.

Mr. Coleman said the police department performed a speed study. The 85th percentile speed was 32 mph. Mr. Coleman said the speeds have increased when the parking was removed. Mr. Coleman said they are proposing a mid-block crosswalk between Sunset Road and Winslow Road with a central pedestrian refuge island. Mr. Coleman said to address the overall speed issue they are proposing adding 5' bike lanes on both sides with a 2' buffer.

Mr. Coleman said this was presented to the Newark Bike Committee for comment. In general, they were happy with the recommendations, however they would like to add green paint in the bike lanes to increase visibility. Mr. Coleman said the proposal has received internal approval from MUTCD. Mr. Coleman said the protected bike lane and buffer was removed where the on street parking begins and swapped out to a sharrow in the south bound lane as opposed to removing parking.

Mr. Coleman said they are currently working on pricing for this project. Mr. Coleman said they submitted for a Cycling Infrastructure grant through the Delaware Bicycle Council where there is a total of \$24,000 available this year and a portion of this would help to offset the cost of the project. The paint would cost approximately \$5,000-\$6,000. The pedestrian refuge island and two (2) handicap ramps will cost approximately \$10,000. Mr. Coleman said the thought is to time this project with the repaving of Apple Road.

Mr. Gula suggested adding a sharrow just south of Park Place may be helpful.

Mr. Haines said he feels it is not transition from residential to commercial. Mr. Gula said he feels it is a nice connection with the full bike lanes.

Mr. Haines asked what the project time frame is. Mr. Coleman said he would anticipate this project will be included in the 2017 paving program.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Lt. Nelson, to approve the proposed bike lane and mid-block crosswalk at Apple Road between West Park Place and South Main Street.

Motion Passed. Vote: 7 to 0.

6. Request to review a speeding issue on Pickett Lane.

Mr. Haines said Officer Vari researched the speed on Pickett Lane following the city council meeting. DC Feeney said PO Vari ran radar on the street. Lt. Nelson said the speed signs have been placed on Pickett Lane.

DC Feeney said the signs are out and will analyze the data and will further discuss once the data has been received. DC Feeney suggested reaching out to the requester with the results of the speed study.

7. Request for a speed bump on Shenandoah Drive.

DC Feeney said this request was received from a resident. The resident states there is a curve in the road and vehicles are speeding on the street.

Lt. Nelson said the speed sign was placed on the street. The speed limit is 25 mph. The average speed was 22 mph. The 85th percentile speed was 27 mph. Lt. Nelson said Sgt. Davis reached out to the resident and she is not in favor of conducting speed enforcement. Lt. Nelson said she agreed to place the speed sign on the street to encourage motorists to drive the speed limit.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Gula, to deny the request for a speed bump on Shenandoah Drive.

Motion Passed. Vote: 7 to 0.

Other Business:

DC Feeney said there was a question regarding documents submitted as part of the agenda items. The question was if these documents should be part of the meeting minutes or to make a note on the meeting minutes the documents will be kept on file in the police department. DC Feeney said his thought is the documents should be kept on file in the police department. The committee agreed the documents should be kept on file in the police department.

DC Feeney said someone has went through the meeting minutes and provided grammatical corrections to the minutes. Mr. Haines said the meeting minutes have been emailed to the members. Mr. Haines said once committee members or members of the public attending the minutes have approved those would be the final meeting minutes. Mr. Haines said at future meetings there would be a first agenda item to approve the draft meeting minutes from the previous meeting.



Kevin Feeney, Chairman

Any supporting documents pertaining to this meeting will be held on file at the police department.