

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Meeting
August 20, 2019
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Lt. Dennis Aniunas, Mark Farrall, Tim Filasky, Marvin Howard, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Guests: Matt Buckley, Delaware Department of Transportation

1. Request to install a traffic light on S. Chapel Street at Wyoming Road.

Lt. Aniunas said this item was received by Ms. Kristina Jackson. Ms. Jackson said she lives at 119 Tyre Avenue. Ms. Jackson said she travels through this intersection many times a day. Ms. Jackson said it is very dangerous with congestion when the University of Delaware is in session.

Mr. Buckley said at the end of April DelDOT captured before data while the University of Delaware was still in session. Mr. Buckley said the intersection satisfies the typical warrants from a traffic volume standpoint to justify a traffic signal. Mr. Buckley said although the intersection satisfies traffic warrants, it is important keep in mind that it may not be the best and/or safest treatment.

Mr. Buckley said DelDOT also reviewed crash experience for the safety component. In the late 2017 into 2018, the intersection satisfied the crash component of the traffic signal warrants. In 2018 into 2019, there was a decrease in the amount of crashes. Mr. Buckley added although cars were counted, at the time, DelDOT was unable to capture delay and queuing information. Mr. Buckley said DelDOT is seeking the committee's approval to continue to evaluate the intersection in the Fall of 2019 to capture and analyze data to determine if signalization would be the best option.

Lt. Aniunas reviewed the 2019 crashes and confirmed they all could've occurred even with a traffic signal.

Mr. Gula asked if DelDOT has performed pedestrian counts at the intersection. Mr. Buckley said he would look into this and make sure pedestrian counts are performed and included in the analysis.

Mr. Buckley said one concern DelDOT would investigate is the westbound approach coming from Library Avenue along Wyoming Road with S. Chapel Street traffic queue extending back to the Pomeroy Trail.

Lt. Aniunas asked when the analysis would be completed and could be discussed. Mr. Buckley suggested tentatively scheduling the discussion for the October Traffic Committee meeting.

DC Farrall asked if DelDOT ultimately supports a traffic signal at this intersection, would this include a redesign of the intersection. Mr. Buckley said either you make the intersection large enough to provide every turning movement a dedicated lane or take a medium to slightly larger intersection and reduce it to make it more controllable. A single lane approach provides a more clear and visual approach. The goal would be to make a traffic signal as efficient and safe as possible without locking up the intersection.

Mr. Filasky would like to obtain background data when the right turn lane was installed westbound.

Motion by Mr. Gula, seconded by Mr. Farrall, for DelDOT to continue to analyze the intersection and provide an analysis at the October Traffic Committee meeting.

Motion Passed:

Vote: 5 to 0

2. Request to remove the Special Residential Parking on Grays Avenue.

Ms. Chin said they represent the neighbors on Grays Avenue. Ms. Chin said they appreciate the committee providing them the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

Ms. Chin said approximately 15-20 years ago, "No Parking Anytime" signs were installed on Grays Avenue. Ms. Chin said a couple of years ago, Special Residential Parking signs were installed on one side of Grays Avenue. Ms. Chin said to her knowledge there was no notification provided to the residents that these signs were to be installed.

Ms. Chin said cars park along the street blocking access to driveways, mailboxes, etc. Mr. Filasky said that although the signs are installed in certain locations doesn't allow for access to be blocked. Mr. Filasky said the Parking Division can ticket cars for blocking access to a ramp or driveway, etc.

Ms. Chin said due to the narrow road with cars parked along the road is concerned that emergency vehicles are unable to get down the street effectively.

Ms. Chin said a main concern is the number of vehicles parking in the driveway and on the street at the rental house at 45 Grays Avenue. Ms. Chin said some of the vehicles don't have a Special Residential parking sticker on the car.

Mr. Howard reviewed the records and confirmed 45 Grays Avenue should only have two residential parking permits and two residential guest parking passes. Mr. Howard said he will have the Parking Ambassador to conduct enforcement on Grays Avenue for parking violations. Mr. Farrall noted anyone residing within the parking zone can legally park on Grays Avenue.

Ms. Chin said due to the parked cars the Public Works Department has an issue collecting the trash and turning around at the end of the street. Mr. Filasky said the sign that is partially installed in the cul-de-sac will be removed.

Lt. Aniunas will ask Code Enforcement to look into occupancy at 45 Grays Avenue.

Mr. Hall said they have lived in Newark for 10 months. Mr. Hall feels the safety of the street has been compromised due to all of the parked cars. Mr. Hall would like to know the occupancy levels for rentals and if this makes a difference with on street parking. Mr. Hall said there appears to be an abundance of rentals from 45 Grays Avenue.

Mr. Filasky said a narrow street creates traffic calming and has been proven to reduce speeding.

Mr. Howard provided the phone number for residents to contact for reporting parking violations. The phone number is (302) 304-9920 and is available 24/7.

Mr. Farrall said this is a narrow street, however there are many narrow streets in Newark that are designated as a Special Residential Parking District and are able to navigate emergency vehicles down the narrow streets effectively. Mr. Farrall believes this request is an enforcement issue and an improper rental concern.

Mr. Farrall said parking is premium in Newark and at times it can be difficult when making decisions in finding a balance for everyone.

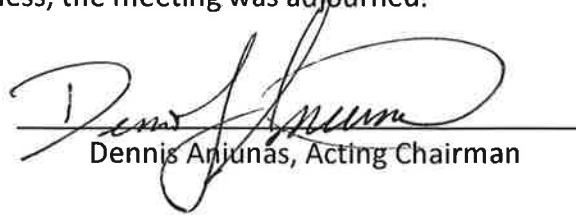
(Note: Prior to the vote, Mr. Farrall briefly left the council chambers and returned following the vote.)

Motion by Mr. Parkins, seconded by Mr. Howard, to remove Special Residential Parking on Grays Avenue.

Motion Passed:

Vote: 3 to 1

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dennis Anjunas, Acting Chairman

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