

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Minutes
May 17, 2022
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: DC Mark Farrall, Tim Filasky, Marvin Howard, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Lt. Chris Jones

Guests: Melanie Cords, Newark Resident

Meeting Convened: 3:30 p.m. Council Chambers (In-person)/Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

DC Mark Farrall called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. After calling the meeting to order, DC Farrall introduced the committee members.

1. Request to remove the “No right-turn restriction” from Amstel Avenue eastbound onto Orchard Road, southbound.

This request was forwarded to the Traffic Committee by Mr. Tom Coleman, City Manager, upon receiving an email from Ms. Melanie Cords, Newark resident.

Members had a recollection that the restriction was put in place prior to the University of Delaware Center for the Arts being constructed with the anticipation being it would create additional traffic through the residential neighborhoods via Orchard Road.

In May of 2004, City Council voted on the two restrictions separately in the affirmative. As a result, Ordinance 20-221 (14) was enacted for a no left-turn restriction on Orchard Road, northbound onto Amstel Avenue, westbound, effective approximately midway through the traffic counting phase of the future University of Delaware Center for the Arts traffic study and Ordinance 20-221A (1) was enacted for a no right-turn restriction on Amstel Avenue, eastbound onto Orchard Road, southbound effective 30 days prior to the opening of the garage for the University of Delaware’s Center for the Arts.

Upon researching the intersection of Orchard Road onto Amstel Avenue it was discovered a No left-turn restriction was codified, however, the sign was never posted.

Mr. Filasky stated even though the No left-turn restriction from Orchard Road onto Amstel Avenue was codified, he believes the reason the signs were never posted was the traffic study wasn't completed after the approval of the building was received.

Mr. Filasky asked if there has been police enforcement on the no right-turn onto Amstel Avenue. DC Farrall stated to his knowledge there hasn't been any issues with collisions or traffic volume at the intersection; only stop sign violations.

Mr. Gula said it is telling that the one comment we have is a Newark resident in favor of removing the turn restriction.

Mr. Parkins said his recollection from the Traffic Committee meeting when it was restricted is that the members were unaware of the full extent of performances and how much traffic volume would be added.

DC Farrall added that another change since the building was built, was that at that time Amstel Avenue was a two-way street in the block between Orchard Road and S. College Avenue and now there is one less way for motorists to get to that building from S. College Avenue.

Mr. Filasky suggested retrieving data from the University of Delaware to determine how utilized the parking structure is.

Public Comment:

Ms. Cords has seen an increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around Elkton Road. Since 2004, there have been additional commercial buildings constructed in and along the area. Ms. Cords likes to patronize local eateries and steer away from Main Street as much as possible. Due to the current traffic patterns, it is challenging to get in and out during the semester with students on campus. There is an enormous backup of traffic from Amstel Avenue to South College Avenue with vehicular and pedestrian volume. Ms. Cords would like to travel with the least restriction as possible. Ms. Cords appreciates the reconsideration of this item and look at the options to make it easier for the resident's ease of travel.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY MARVIN HOWARD, TO SUPPORT THE REMOVAL OF THE RIGHT-TURN RESTRICTION FROM AMSTEL AVENUE, EASTBOUND TO ORCHARD ROAD, SOUTHBOUND.

VOTE: 5 TO 0

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY TIM FILASKY, TO REMOVE THE LEFT-TURN RESTRICTION FROM ORCHARD ROAD, NORTHBOUND ONTO AMSTEL AVENUE, WESTBOUND THAT IS CURRENTLY UNSIGNED.

VOTE: 5 TO 0

Mr. Filasky explained to Ms. Cords that the Traffic Committee will make a recommendation to City Council removing the restrictions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.



Mark Farrall, Deputy Chief