

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
September 21, 2010
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Marvin Howard, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Carol Houck

Guests: Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Du Zhang, University of Delaware student

1. REQUEST FOR A THREE-WAY STOP SIGN AT EDJIL DRIVE AND 400 DOUGLAS D. ALLEY DRIVE.

Lt. Stanko said the traffic division has received speeding complaints on Edjil Drive in the past. Lt. Stanko said at this location a portion of the road is maintained by the city and the other portion is maintained by the state. Lt. Stanko said the traffic division is currently reviewing Edjil and Anita Drive for stop sign violations. Lt. Stanko said stop signs are not intended to control speeding. Lt. Stanko is opposed to installing a stop sign at this location considering motorists are not stopping for the stop sign at Edjil Drive and Anita Drive.

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN AT EDJIL DRIVE AND DOUGLAS D. ALLEY DRIVE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

2. REQUEST TO PROHIBIT U-TURNS NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND ON NEW LONDON ROAD AT FREMONT ROAD/COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE.

Lt. Stanko received a phone call that motorists have trouble making a u-turn at these locations. Lt. Stanko said the traffic officers do not have a problem making a u-turn at these locations. Lt. Stanko said with the traffic lane and the wide shoulder he does see an issue making u-turns at these locations. Lt. Stanko said considering there is not an accident history he does not feel a sign prohibiting u-turns is needed.

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE TO DENY THE REQUEST TO PROHIBIT U-TURNS ON NORTHBOUND/SOUTHBOUND ON NEW LONDON ROAD AT FREMONT ROAD/COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

3. NEWARK TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION BY WILMAPCO.

Heather Dunigan said WILMAPCO is providing \$75,000 out of their staff budget to perform a multimodal traffic circulation plan for Newark. The kickoff was held March 2010, with a second Advisory Committee meeting, and a public workshop in May. The third Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2010.

Heather Dunigan said this plan will be an update of Newark's portion of the Newark Elktion intermodal transportation plan that was conducted back in 1998. The plan was to review congestion, bicycle/pedestrian issues, parking, trucks and transit. The committee will continue to review the same issues, however this time WILMAPCO has hired a consultant to review traffic signal coordination. The consultant has setup a synchronization model for the majority of the traffic signals for downtown Newark in order to research how traffic is affected.

Heather Dunigan shared with the committee comments that were collected from the past two Newark Community Days and the public workshop. Heather Dunigan said the first two pages are the comments from the workshop. Heather Dunigan said the "Ride of Silence" bicycle event occurred the same evening the workshop was held which skewed the results. Heather Dunigan said the top issues at the workshop were on and off road bicycling, crosswalks, intersections and walk ability. Heather Dunigan said the last two pages were results from a DOT board survey that was used the past two Newark Community Days and the workshop outlining top priorities for transportation. Heather Dunigan said the top two issues are traffic congestion and signal timing followed by commuter rail service. Heather Dunigan said traffic calming and truck traffic are at the bottom of the list. Heather Dunigan said last year commuter rail service was number five on the list and after Community Day it rose to number one. Heather Dunigan said last year traffic signal timing was number one last year fell to number four this year.

Heather Dunigan said the consultants will be reviewing the potential of using HAWK signals on Main Street, S. College Avenue and Delaware Avenue. Lt. Stanko felt all these locations would be good for a HAWK signal. Lt. Stanko suggested on Delaware Avenue at "The Green" timing the HAWK signal with the lights. Lt. Stanko said using HAWK signals at midblock crosswalks would be ideal. Lt. Stanko said on Library Avenue at the Webb Farm was a bad location for a HAWK signal. Lt. Stanko said the purpose of this light is for pedestrian traffic and feels there is not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant the need for a signal.

Heather Dunigan asked the committee for feedback in regard to signalization issues. Lt. Stanko said the W. Main Street, Hillside Road, Cleveland Avenue felt were locations that should be reviewed for signalization timing. Heather Dunigan said they would look into these locations.

Heather Dunigan said they are considering removing the bike lane on S. College Avenue. Rich Lapointe recommended widening the bike lane and narrowing the traffic lane on the bridge. Heather Dunigan said the University of Delaware could explore an off-road bikeway.

Heather Dunigan said they will look at addressing the jaywalking across Library Avenue to the bus stop. Lt. Stanko said most of the pedestrians are coming from George Reed Village which makes this a natural crossing point. Lt. Stanko said if a crosswalk is considered at this location, it must be realized that the crosswalk will be blocked during peak travel times.

Heather Dunigan said the University of Delaware is part of a zip car sharing program and currently has four cars. There is a possibility that spots will need to be reserved in the future in the city municipal lots.

Old Business:

Country Club Drive Traffic Calming

Chief Tiernan inquired as to the status of traffic calming for Country Club Drive. Dave Gula said the committee discussed specific locations for traffic counts. Dave Gula said once the traffic counts are performed and the data is collected a meeting may be will be scheduled to discuss the results. Rich Lapointe requested counts for both traffic and speed. Lt. Stanko said he will have the Traffic Division perform the counts.

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman