

**CITY OF NEWARK**  
**Newark, Delaware**

**TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 20, 2015**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Chief Paul Tiernan, D/C Kevin Feeney, Sgt. Curtis Davis, Andrew Haines, Tom Coleman, Marvin Howard, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

**Guests:** Jason Winterling, Public Works, Field Operations Superintendent  
Joe Charma, P.E., Landmark Engineering

**1. DISCUSS TABLED REQUEST “DON’T BLOCK THE BOX” CAMPAIGN FOR NEWARK. (NOVEMBER 18, 2014 MEETING)**

Chief Tiernan said this item was requested by Representative Paul Baumbach which was presented by Sean Dwyer (Legislative Aid) at the Traffic Committee meeting held on November 18, 2014.

Tom Coleman said a cost analysis was compiled for E. Main Street at Chapel Street and E. Delaware Avenue at S. College Avenue. Jason Winterling said attached to the memorandum showing the cost analysis on pages two and three were the applicable sections of the Delaware MUTCD showing recommended signage and pavement markings.

Jason Winterling said in regard to cars potentially blocking the box on page 3B-62 DelDOT has provided some options for review. The first option, “Option D.” “Do Not Block” would be thermoplastic pavement markings. Jason said due to difficulty of reading this, the City approved “Option C.” that would consist of a thermoplastic marking consisting of a 4”-6” box with white double crosshatch lines.

Jason said in putting together these costs and figuring the square footage of thermoplastic the intersection of Paper Mill Road at the old Curtis Paper Mill was referenced. Also taken into consideration was roadside signage in addition to the thermoplastic, reference page 3B-62, 3B.18, “Do Not Block Intersection Markings”. At both E. Main Street and Chapel and Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue each would have four (4) roadside signs, “Do Not Block Intersection” and three (3) overhead signs, “Don’t Block the Box”. Pricing also includes the rehabilitation of the existing crosswalks, stop bars and new thermoplastic double hatching.

The total cost for E. Main Street & Chapel Street approximately \$6,000 and Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue approximately \$10,000.

Chief Tiernan asked if the cost would be at the expense of the city or DeIDOT. Tom Coleman said the cost would be the at the city's expense. However, the question at this time is whether DeIDOT would agree to maintain the thermoplastic when the roads are resurfaced. Tom normally when the city installs new pavement markings that aren't existing the city pays the initial cost to install and DeIDOT would replace when the road is repaved. Tom also said the city has typically incurred the cost of annual maintenance and expects to maintain every three to four years.

Jason said upon contacting DeIDOT to install overhead signs, DeIDOT's traffic engineering division was already looking into this. Chief Tiernan asked if DeIDOT would then contact the city with their recommendation. Tom said if this was approved by Rep. Baumbach more than likely a portion of the cost would be funded through Community Transportation Fund (CTF) and the city would fund the difference.

Andrew Haines asked if the police department would have the manpower for enforcement at the locations. Sgt. Davis said manpower wouldn't be an issue, however it could be difficult to safely pull cars over. Curtis said taking care of repeat offenders isn't an issue, however voluntary compliance in the long term would be determined. Sgt. Davis in his opinion believes that when the midblock occurs at Main Street and Delaware Avenue with signalization this issue may be alleviated.

Tom Coleman said at Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue DeIDOT has been reviewing a pedestrian only phase for this intersection. Instead of the pedestrians walking parallel with traffic they would have all pedestrian cycle similar to the intersection at N. College Avenue. Andrew said by posting of UD officer at this intersection would help to change the culture. Andrew said this should be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion and public comment.

Tom Parkins asked if the pedestrian crossing light at Delaware Avenue east of S. College Avenue at "The Green" is being changed. Tom Coleman said this location will be signalized in 2016. Tom said he feels it would make more sense to wait until the signalization occurs before moving forward with the substantial costs.

Curtis said some years ago the committee received requests for Delaware Avenue and S. College Avenue, Main Street and College Avenue and N. College and Cleveland Avenue for pedestrian only phases. Tom Coleman said DeIDOT switched to a leading pedestrian only phase at N. College Avenue and Cleveland Avenue.

Mr. Charma said he likes the Don't Block the Box idea to alleviate gridlock at N. Chapel Street. Mr. Charma said if funding is available he supports the concept and agrees it would be best if pedestrian phase signaling would help with traffic congestion before spending the money on the pavement markings..

Mr. Charma said in Philadelphia there are no turn signals and motorists obey the Don't Block the Box and it works very well. In Philadelphia there are many transient visitors as there are in Newark and believes education plays an important role in changing the culture.

Andrew said he would support only signage, no pavement markings at Main Street and Chapel Street.

**MOTION BY ANDREW HAINES, SECONDED BY MARIVN HOWARD TO INSTALL ONLY SIGNAGE AT E. MAIN STREET AND CHAPEL STREET AND ADD TO NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA SIGNALIZATION AT DELAWARE AVENUE AND S. COLLEGE AVENUE.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.**

Mr. Charma suggested including information in next month's utility bills regarding the Don't Block the Box. Andrew asked Jason Winterling to send a diagram to Tommy Atadan who will facilitate utility bill insertion.


Chief Tiernan asked Tom Coleman if they would ask Rep. Baumbach for sign funding. Tom Coleman said they would look into this. Jason Winterling said Alden (Public Works) could install the roadside signs and would cost \$388 to install. The overhead signs would be installed by DeIDOT.

Old Business:

Tom Parkins said the traffic lights eastbound on Kirkwood highway heading out of Newark at Cleveland Avenue aren't visible until you are almost under the bridge. Tom Coleman will mention this to DeIDOT.

New Business:

Chief Tiernan said Lt. Hargrove has been reassigned and will no longer be attending the meeting and will be filled once the Traffic Lieutenant has been chosen. Chief Tiernan also said Deputy Chief of Operation Kevin Feeney will begin chairing the meeting beginning next month.



Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman