

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
November 17, 2015
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: DC Kevin Feeney, Lt. Fred Nelson, Andrew Haines, Tom Coleman, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Marvin Howard

1. REQUEST TO ELIMINATE PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF CENTER STREET.

Lt. Nelson said the request was received by Mayor Sierer. The mayor mentioned the congestion on Center Street specifically heading north from Main Street. The narrowing of the road is due to special residential parking on both sides of the street. Sgt. Davis recommended removing 10 spots on the west side of Center Street.

Sgt. Nelson said removing parking would not be favorable as parking is needed in this area. Andrew Haines said there has been much council discussion regarding parking needs in downtown Newark. Andrew asked where this displaces the parking and if it would be creating an artificial demand for off street parking. Sgt. Nelson said he isn't aware of there being an accident history on Center Street. DC Feeney said he is concerned of the public safety hazard due to the congestion. Dave Gula said the parking on the street is residential parking and more than likely not patron parking. Tom Coleman said he believes all the houses on Center Street also have off street parking as well. Sgt. Nelson said this was taken into consideration and confirmed all the houses do off street parking.

DC Feeney said the safety concern is getting emergency vehicles down the street. Tom Parkins said he would be opposed to removing residential parking, however from a safety aspect this creates an issue.

Sgt. Nelson said motorists are traveling around a blind corner with pedestrians in the road and with a potential for accidents to occur.

Tom Parkins asked if any permanent residents would be affected. Andrew Haines said he believes there is one owner on Linden Street and all rentals on the west side of Center Street that are owned by Lang Development. Tom Parkins asked if a letter would be sent to the property owners in advance.

Andrew Haines said it would be a good practice if parking was removed to allow residents to attend the council meeting for public comment. Andrew Haines suggesting notifying residents of the council meeting 1st reading and 2nd reading.

DC Feeney feels it would be best to obtain input from Aetna to confirm the emergency access issue prior to notifying property owners. Andrew Haines suggested sending notice of the next Traffic Committee meeting to the property owners prior to the request going to city council.

Lt. Nelson said he would follow up with Aetna for input/comments.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO TABLE THE ITEM FOR NEXT AVAILABLE DATE AFTER AETNA RESPONDS WITH COMMENTS.

MOTION PASSED: 6 TO 0

2. REQUEST TO ADD NO PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF BELLEVUE ROAD.

Tom Coleman said this request was received by DOW. Tom Coleman said they are having issues with trucks parking on properties they don't own. The delivery trucks are parking on the pedestrian walkway on the south side causing pedestrians to walk down the street. Tom Coleman said the walkway was paved wider by the City of Newark which was paid for by DOW as well as the striping. Tom Coleman said there are "No Parking" signs existing that the city didn't install and are facing the wrong direction. Tom Coleman said he doesn't feel that just making a no parking designation will accomplish what is needed. In addition he recommended adding tubular markers to help prevent parking.

Tom Coleman said he feels it should be no parking. Dave Gula asked if there is an issue that trucks have no other place to park. Tom Coleman said that is a concern and isn't sure where else they would park.

Dave Gula said he feels there should be notification to the property owners. Tom Coleman agreed there should be outreach prior to the recommendation going before council. Andrew Haines said it appears they have the smallest parking lot of the industrial park. Tom Coleman agrees we should send out letters to DOW and businesses located within the industrial park with an invitation to the next Traffic Committee meeting.

DC Feeney suggested we provide the locations on the overhead for viewing.

MOTION BY TOM COLEMAN, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA TO TABLE THE REQUEST FOR THE NEXT TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING PENDING NOTIFICATON TO DOW AND INDUSTRIAL PARK PROPERTY OWNERS.

3. DISCUSS A MAKING U-TURN RESTRICTION AT THE INTERSECTION OF LIBRARY AND CLEVELAND AVENUES.

Sgt. Nelson said this item was received by Representative Baumbach that stated there is an issue with motorists heading north on Library Avenue making a U-turn at Cleveland Avenue intersection, creating a conflict with motorists heading east on Cleveland Avenue making a right turn. Lt. Nelson said most motorists have to make a 3-pt turn.

Tom Parkins said Woodlawn Avenue onto Library Avenue is very dangerous and is worse not than it was prior to the improvements. Lt. Nelson said this location has been discussed with DeIDOT recently and their statistics indicate the intersection is much safer than it was before. Lt. Nelson said the goal for the intersection was to eliminate the t-bone accidents and has been achieved with the new improvements to the intersection. Lt. Nelson said DeIDOT also stated the improvements have improved rear end accidents when making the right turn from Ogletown Road onto Library Avenue.

Andrew Haines clarified the intersection is Capitol Trail and Cleveland Avenue.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY LT. NELSON, TO RESTRICT U-TURNS FROM CAPITOL TRAIL AT CLEVELAND AVENUE.

MOTION PASSED: 6 TO 0

OLD BUSINESS:

DC Kevin Feeney said he wanted to follow up on the request to designate the west side of Tyre Avenue as a Special Residential Parking District in regard to who would send the letter. DC Kevin Feeney said his notes stated we would determine who sends out the letters whether it would be sent on behalf of the Traffic Committee or the City Secretary's office. Tom Coleman asked who the letter would be sent to. DC Feeney said it was determined to send letter to the property owners on the whole street.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Gula said WILMAPCO has met with a Newark resident that is very interested in traffic concerns on Cleveland Avenue, the potential development of the Newark Country Club and how it will affect the New London Road and Hillside Road intersections. He has met with WILMAPCO to draw up a new road through Newark.

Tom Coleman said the next most dangerous intersection DeIDOT plans to study is Cleveland Avenue from Capitol Trail to New London Road.


Tom Coleman said in speaking with DeIDOT some ideas discussed are removing parking on W. Cleveland Avenue, make Margaret Street one-way in and review the road diet on E. Cleveland Avenue for the center turn lane. Andrew Haines asked if there is an estimate of the number of cars parking on Cleveland Avenue. Dave Gula said there was a suggestion for a traffic circle at Paper Mill Road. Tom Coleman said the traffic circle is good for pedestrian movement. Dave Gula said it should also eliminate t-bone accidents.

Andrew Haines asked if the Traffic Committee has ever held a yearly traffic forum in the evening for residents to attend. Some topics to discuss, highest priorities, where the money is being spent, as well as a yearly review. Andrew said June may be a good time to have the forum. Tom Parkins said in the past, a Newark Traffic Relief Committee was organized to discuss ideas, concepts with the public.

Dave Gula said WILMAPCO is looking at a pathway from Timothy's down to Martin Boulevard.

Tom Coleman said they applied for a Cycling Innovation Grant for the intersection of Capitol Trail Avenue and Cleveland Avenue for a traffic circle. Tom Coleman said we are one of five finalists in the state that could receive the grant.

Tom Coleman asked how we would go about setting up a committee. Andrew Haines said the Traffic Committee is an official committee of council. Andrew Haines said he envisions an AD HOC committee that would meet and report back to the Traffic Committee. Andrew Haines said we could select two or three members from the Traffic Committee to be part of the AD HOC committee. Dave Gula feels the AD HOC committee would be most productive if it was project/task oriented. Tom Coleman said he feels DeIDOT should be involved as well. DC Feeney asked if the members should be chosen. Tom Coleman said there would be a representative from public works, Lt. Nelson will be involved from the police department, representative from WILMAPCO, and Tom Parkins. Tom Coleman said he will send out an email to initiate the first meeting to the newly formed committee. DC Feeney said he would support an annual Traffic Committee public forum. Andrew Haines said the annual meeting may also solicit commentary that could lead into future capital improvement projects.



Kevin Feeney, Chairman