

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

**Traffic Committee Meeting**  
**December 19, 2017**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** DC Mark Farrall, Andrew Haines, Marvin Howard, Tim Filasky

**Absent:** Dave Gula, WILMAPCO  
Tom Parkins, Newark resident

**Guests:** Lt. Dennis Aniunas, Newark Police Department  
Chris Hamilton, Councilmember  
Richard Rind, University of Delaware  
Shearee Barnett, University of Delaware  
Chip Kneavel, Delaware Department of Transportation  
Josh Shannon, Newark Post  
Helga Huntley, Newark resident

**1. Request from the University of Delaware to add curb cuts on Academy Street south of the crosswalk between the Perkins Center and Rodney Dining Hall.**

Mr. Richard Rind said he is the Director of Auxiliary Services with the University of Delaware and introduced Ms. Shearee Barnett, Transportation Manager with the University of Delaware.

Mr. Rind said Academy Street has changed a lot over the past several years and found the bus routes were being underutilized. To resolve the issue the University of Delaware has redesigned the bus routes on Academy Street.

Mr. Rind said currently when the buses stop to drop off/pick up passengers this occurs in the roadway which leads to traffic delays. Mr. Rind said to help vehicular movement in the area the University of Delaware is proposing cut outs to move the stops off of the road so traffic can continue to move. This design would be like the cut outs on S. College Avenue near the overpass. This goal of the design is to improve vehicular movement on Academy Street.

Lt. Aniunas said from a traffic perspective it makes sense to move the bus stops out of the middle of the road. DC Farrall asked if more than one bus would drop off in the same direction at the same time. Ms. Barnett said the only time this would occur is during special events approximately three times a year.

Mr. Haines asked if from an engineering standpoint there should be a certain setback distance for line of sight for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Mr. Haines said it appears from plan there is approximately 100' from the front of the cut out to the crosswalk. Mr. Haines asked if this was an adequate distance from a design standpoint. Mr. Rind said there is enough space to move the cut outs if necessary.

Mr. Filasky said he would like to keep the curb lines the same for proper drainage toward the road. Mr. Filasky asked the University of Delaware to include ADA standards in the final plan design.

**Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Howard, for the University of Delaware to continue with preliminary design of the cut outs on Academy Street with the Public Works and Wastewater Department.**

**Motion Passed: Unanimous**

**Vote: 4 to 0**

Mr. Haines asked for the University of Delaware to keep in mind if there are any other areas where vehicular movement could be improved. Mr. Rind said the University of Delaware recently completed a campus wide parking and transportation survey and based upon the comments and results of the study will continue to keep this in mind.

DC Farrall suggested adding cut outs for the buses on S. College Avenue near the fieldhouse. DC Farrall added this would improve traffic flow during football games, special events, etc.

Mr. Hamilton suggested adding another location on S. College Avenue near the library. Mr. Rind said there are existing stops in the area, however they will consider possible improvements to this area.

Mr. Filasky said the bike lanes on Academy Street will need to be hashed with proper signage.

## 2. Review the final plans on the Safe Routes to School project.

Mr. Kneavel said the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program through Delaware Department of Transportation utilizing federal money to provide safer pedestrian and bicycle access for children that walk or ride bikes to school. Mr. Kneavel said the SRTS program is a multi-faceted program that provides infrastructure enhancements as well as education and encouragement as part of the school curriculum. Mr. Kneavel said this project is for Casho Mill Road between Barksdale Road and Nottingham Road for Downes Elementary School.

Mr. Kneavel said there was a public workshop approximately one month ago. The options presented were as follows:

- Option 1 – Buffered bike lane with pavement striping and install a mid-block crosswalk pedestrian safety island with new curb ramps.
- Option 2 – Buffered bike lane with bike friendly rumble strips.
- Option 3 – Protected bike lane with delineator posts.

Mr. Kneavel said based on the public comments and feedback from the school the recommendation is for DeIDOT to proceed with option one. Mr. Filasky said a mid-block crosswalk isn't ideal, however this mid-block crosswalk would include a pedestrian refuge island as most don't.

Mr. Kneavel said part of the design would include eliminating on-street parking from Nottingham Road to Church Road. Ms. Huntley said most of the homes in this area have driveways. DC Farrall said some of the driveways are short and may have room to park only one car.

DC Farrall asked if notification has been sent to the residents of the intent to remove on-street parking. Mr. Kneavel said there hasn't been a notification sent to the residents regarding the parking and his understanding was the City of Newark would provide this notice. DC Farrall said it would be customary for the SRTS to draft the letter to the residents for this project.

DC Farrall inquired as to the timeframe of the project. Mr. Kneavel said final design is expected to begin in February of 2018 and construction would begin in the Summer of 2019. Mr. Haines suggested noticing residents of an additional comment meeting in January with consideration to removing parking. Mr. Kneavel said he they would draft the letter and forward to the city for approval/revision.

Mr. Haines said the City of Newark would provide a cover letter supplementing the SRTS notification of the meeting. Mr. Haines suggested tentatively adding to a February/March council meeting. Mr. Kneavel said he would need time to get the consultant on board and was comfortable with the month of March.

DC Farrall asked Mr. Howard if there are any residents on Church Road or Vassar Drive that would be affected. Mr. Howard said he would research any residents on Church Road or Vassar Drive that should also be included in the notification.

**Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Filasky, to table this item to the March Traffic Committee meeting to further discuss the safe routes to school project pending notification to residents in February that will be potentially impacted by removing parking.**

**Motion Passed: Unanimous**

**Vote: 4 to 0**

Public Comment:

Ms. Huntley suggested the Traffic Committee consider moving forward with the west portion of the project that includes the crosswalk. Mr. Filasky explained the Traffic Committee only makes recommendations for city council approval. The crosswalk is a state maintained road and therefore isn't approved by city council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Mark Farrall, Chairman

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