

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
October 21, 2008
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Captain Rick Williams, Lt. George Stanko, Carol Houck, Patricia Fogg, Rich Lapointe, Maureen Feeney-Roser, Tom Sciulli, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Rick Vitelli

Guests: Jean White, Newark Resident
Phil and Judy Alwine, Newark Residents
Dung Ngo, University of Delaware Student
Yaw Adu-Cojamfi, University of Delaware Student
Leslie Mills, University of Delaware Student

Capt. Williams suggested starting with agenda item #5 represented by Phil and Judy Alwine to the top of the agenda.

1. REQUEST FOR “NO PARKING FROM 10 P.M. TO 6 A.M.” SIGN AT THE APPLE ROAD CUL-DE-SAC.

Chief Tiernan received a memo from Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director from Phil and Judy Alwine. A petition was provided to the committee members. Capt. Williams asked Phil and Judy Alwine to comment on the request.

Phil Alwine said there is a tremendous amount of parking in the cul-de-sac from the hours of 10 PM to 6 AM. He mentioned the park is closed at this time of night so there is no reason for cars to be parking in the cul-de-sac. Judy Alwine said they have witnessed car doors slamming in the night, improper behavior, and drug use. Carol Houck asked if the drug use was reported to the police. Judy Alwine said that it was reported and the police have been very responsive. Rich Lapointe asked if the late night parking could be their neighbors' visitors. Judy Alwine said that the neighbors do not have visitors during these late hours. Tom Parkins asked if anyone on the street is opposed to this request. Judy Alwine said the petition represents all the households on the street and that no one is opposed to this request.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY PATRICIA FOGG TO APPROVE THE SIGN FOR “NO PARKING FROM 10 P.M. TO 6 A.M. TO BE LOCATED AT THE APPLE ROAD CUL-DE-SAC.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

2. REQUEST FOR A “NO OUTLET” SIGN ON THE 600 BLOCK OF APPLE ROAD.

Chief Tiernan received a memo from Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director from Phil and Judy Alwine.

Rich Lapointe said this item has been completed. The “No Outlet” sign has been moved from the left hand side to the right hand side of the road.

3. REQUEST FOR A “SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY” SIGN ON APPLE ROAD.

Chief Tiernan received a memo from Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director from Phil and Judy Alwine.

Rich Lapointe inquired as to a location to install the “Slow Children at Play” sign. Phil Alwine said there have been occasions that motorists fail to see the “No Outlet” sign and speed down the road to the end of the cul-de-sac. Rich Lapointe asked if it would help if the sign were to be installed as you approach the cul-de-sac. Phil and Judy Alwine confirmed that would be a good location. Carol Houck asked if it could be placed with the “No Outlet” sign. Rich Lapointe said that is a possibility.

Phil and Judy Alwine thanked the Traffic Committee and left the meeting at this time.

4. REQUEST TO CHANGE THE INTERSECTION OF DEVON & SHULL DRIVES FROM A TWO-WAY TO A FOUR-WAY STOP INTERSECTION.

Chief Tiernan received this request from Councilmember Tuttle.

Rich Lapointe said just down from the intersection of Devon and Shull Drives the intersection of Devon and Cornwall Drives is a four-way intersection. Rich Lapointe recommended that in order to stay consistent he would recommend changing Devon and Shull Drives from a two-way to a four-way stop intersection. Capt. Rick Williams said there is a line of sight issue at this intersection, however there has been no accident history within the past two years. Tom Parkins inquired as to why we would make this a four-way stop intersection if there is only a slight line of sight issue and no accident history within the past two years. Tom Parkins said by approving this location, it would be inconsistent with past requests that needed to meet certain criteria. Rich Lapointe said within the last year, there have been two similar requests that were approved. Tom Parkins said the reason is to have consistency going down the same street.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY CAROL HOUCK, TO APPROVE THE FOUR-WAY STOP INTERSECTION AT DEVON AND SHULL DRIVES.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 8 to 1

AYE: Capt. Rick Williams, Lt. Stanko, Carol Houck, Pat Fogg, Maureen Feeney-Roser, Rich Lapointe, Tom Sciulli, Dave Gula

NAY: Tom Parkins

5. DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE W. MAIN STREET AND CLEVELAND AVENUE TO MAKE IT SAFE FOR BICYCLISTS.

Tom Parkins recommended that this item be forwarded to the Bicycle Committee to then forward their suggestions to the Traffic Committee for review.

6. REQUEST TO REVIEW SPEED LIMITS ON BARKSDALE ROAD.

Chief Tiernan received this request from Councilmember Pomeroy.

Lt. Stanko said that M/Cpl. Curtis Davis is scheduled to attend a meeting with DelDOT to discuss the state's recommendations of speed limits and their reasoning of the current posted speed limits. The goal is to accomplish speed limit consistency. Carol Houck asked if speeding has been enforced on Barksdale Road. Lt. Stanko said that some enforcement has been done, however the inconsistent signage is causing a problem. Carol Houck suggested using the speed trailer for enforcement. Carol Houck said following the meeting with DelDOT, Lt. Stanko to send a follow up letter to the resident.

7. DISCUSS TRAFFIC CALMING RECOMMENDATIONS ON DALLAM ROAD BETWEEN BENT LANE AND OLD OAK ROAD.

This was a prior agenda item at a traffic committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. At this time petitions were distributed to members and it was decided to table this item for a future meeting when the University of Delaware students were back in session.

Lt. Stanko said the traffic classifier was placed east and west of Old Oak Road intersection on Monday, September 29, 2008. The results from the speed histogram indicate an 85-percentile average speed of 32 m.p.h. or less. Lt. Stanko said 22% of motorists were traveling between 20 to 25 mph, 40% were traveling between 25 to 30 m.p.h. and 23% were traveling over 30 to 35 m.p.h., which indicates more than half of the motorists are traveling the posted speed limit. Lt. Stanko said 3,442 is the total volume for the week and there has been very little accident history.

Rich Lapointe said in order for traffic calming 2 out of the 3 criteria must be met. Rich said the criteria for volume has to be 2,000 per day, which we do not meet. We are just over the five mph over the speed limit, which is 32 mph within the 85 percentile, and three accidents a year. According to the results one out the three criteria is just barely met. Rich Lapointe made a recommendation that we do not proceed with traffic calming on Dallam Road between Bent Lane and Old Oak Road.

Jean White said that she concurs with the motion. Mrs. White said her husband has biked to work for the past 32 years on Dallam Road and has not had a problem. Mrs. White also said she has never seen motorists speeding on this road and has never seen motorists coast through the stop sign at Old Oak Road and Dallam Road.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, NOT TO PROCEED WITH TRAFFIC CALMING ON DALLAM ROAD BETWEEN BENT LANE AND OLD OAK ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 to 0

8. REQUEST FOR A RIGHT TURN LANE ON DELREM DRIVE AT NOTTINGHAM ROAD.

Dave Gula said there is minimal traffic coming from Delrem Drive to require a turn lane. Tom Sciulli agreed with Dave Gula. Tom Parkins inquired as to what it would entail to add a turn lane. Rich Lapointe said the road is 32' wide if a turn lane was added, the through lane would have at least a lane and a half offset. Rich Lapointe said there are three lanes on Nottingham Road heading west with the turn lane against the shoulder, it appears to be a 25' radius and according to the green book the entering lane needs to be a minimum of 14' wide and would not be able to get the 14' wide at this location. Rich Lapointe also mentioned the lane is actuated, therefore the magnetic strip would need to be transferred to the center lane and would incur an additional cost to DeIDOT.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY CAROL HOUCK, TO DENY THE RIGHT TURN LANE AT DELREM DRIVE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 to 0

9. REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE STOP BARS CLOSER TO THE INTERSECTION AT NEW CASHO MILL ROAD AND W. CHURCH ROAD.

Capt. Williams said that this item has been completed. Tom Sciulli said the stop bars have been moved, however there is still at least a car length between the crosswalk and the relocated stop bar. Dave Gula said prior to the relocation of the stop bars, a major problem was an overgrown hedge that created a line of sight issue as you were heading down Church Road. Dave Gula said heading north on Casho Mill Road he would like to see the stop bars located closer to the intersection. Carol Houck suggested contacting DeIDOT for their reason of placing the stop bars where they are rather than closer to the intersection. Rich Lapointe said there are four ramps located on the corners and wonder if DeIDOT plans to redo the ramps when they redo the road. Carol Houck suggested contacting DeIDOT to request clarification of the relocated stop bars. Lt. Stanko will contact DeIDOT.

10. REQUEST FOR A “273 WEST” SIGN AT CASHO MILL ROAD AND ROUTE 273.

Rich Lapointe recommended forwarding the request for a “273 West” sign to DeIDOT.

11. DELDOT RESPONSE LETTERS RECEIVED AS A FOLLOW UP TO ITEMS DISCUSSED AT A MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2008.

Capt. Williams stated we have received two response letters from DeIDOT. Both letters were a follow up to the meeting held on September 16, 2008.

Capt. Williams asked if members had comments related to DeIDOT’s response for the request of a crosswalk at Corbit and W. Main Streets. Carol Houck inquired as to whether the curb ramps are the City’s or DeIDOT’s responsibility as they indicate they do not meet ADA guidelines. Rich said he would send a letter to DeIDOT for all their streets requesting DeIDOT’s schedule to fix the ADA ramps that are their responsibility. Rich Lapointe said he would find out whether the ADA ramps on Corbit Street are the City’s responsibility.

Capt. Williams asked the members if they had any comments related to DeIDOT’s response regarding the west entrance/exit in Newark Shopping Center. Maureen Feeney-Roser suggested discussing the concerns with the owners of the Newark Shopping Center when they redevelop the property.

12. UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE REQUESTED REVIEW OF N. COLLEGE AVENUE AND CLEVELAND AVENUE DUE TO HEAVY PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

Lt. Stanko said the University of Delaware has requested that the intersection of North College Avenue and Cleveland Avenue be looked at due to the amount of pedestrians crossing at this intersection. Lt. Stanko forwarded this request to DeIDOT. Lt. Stanko stated with the heavy pedestrian volume it is difficult for motorists to turn onto Cleveland Avenue from N. College Avenue and at times may wait ten minutes or longer. Dave Gula said it needs to be retimed and a pedestrian phase is needed and suggested that this be discussed with DeIDOT.

There being no further business, Captain Williams called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

Elwood Williams, Chairman