

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

March 18, 2015  
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Andrew Celentano, Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn, Caron Wenzel, Susan Hudson

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Mike McCleary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Mark Indyke, second by Caron Wenzel to accept the January 21, 2015 regular Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn, Chairman Andrew Celentano, Susan Hudson, Caron Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation on Walkway Through Wetlands at William C. Donato Conservation Area presented by Woodstock High School Project Lead the Way students Jonathan Cunningham and Cole Richter.

J Cunningham of 2525 Applewood Lane, Woodstock, IL began the presentation by showing a map/satellite image of the William C. Donato Conservation area and gave a brief description of the problem area. He stated that a path goes all the way around the marsh between Tara Dr. and Gerry St. He described the problem path and stated that the path is covered by pallets raised up out of water and the pallets are not safe to walk on due to broken boards, rusty nails, and uneven base. He stated that they have designed a portable lightweight walkway that is safe and useful.

C Richter of 2020 Red Barn Rd, Woodstock, IL also stated that the current pallets have areas that have rotted away and are unsafe to walk on. He stated that the path contains 175 – 200 feet of pallets and showed a picture of the walkway to the commission. He stated that the proposed solution would be to replace 6x6 foot sections of walkway with portable, elevated, maintainable platforms connected with d-rings that would also be handicapped accessible. He stated that the materials would include 55 gallon polyethylene drums cut in half and bracketed on the bottom with aluminum tubes, custom prebuilt handrails and base wood platform for people to walk on. He stated that each section is estimated to cost \$900. C Richter added that if the area needed to be burned for ecological purposes the platforms could be moved out of the way.

C Richter stated that they could use a geotextile fabric under each section to reduce the chance that the walkway will settle unevenly causing a hazardous condition. C Wenzel asked if that was already included in the cost estimate and C Richter answered in the affirmative. S Hudson asked how the platforms would be connected. C Richter responded they would be connected with D-rings. J Cunningham added that each side of the platform would have two metal loops with a hook to connect loop to loop and closed over with a top sheet of diamond plate steel so there will be no lip which might otherwise cause trip or falls.

M McCleary asked if the Army Corp of Engineers needs to be involved in this since it involves a wetland. C Richter responded that it depends on the type of wetland, whether it's open or closed, and they will research and contact authorities to find out what type of wetland it is.

J Osborn referred to the diamond pattern steel overlay and asked if it would be a problem for wheelchairs. C Richter replied that the overlay would be really thin and provide some traction. J Osborn asked if the overlay pattern was lifted. C Richter replied "not much".

S Hudson suggested in terms of the presentation, it would be nice to have pictures of the existing conditions, and of the steel plate and how it would look.

C Wenzel asked if the students contacted a land preservation agency who would have maps and answers to some of their questions. C Richter replied that they did have a meeting with Amy Peters, Planning and Development Manager, McHenry County Conservation District. C Richter stated that they didn't have information on them at the time. C Wenzel advised them to contact them again because they will have answers to their questions and maps.

Chairman Andrew Celentano suggested that they need a picture of what the problem area looks like now with examples of the problems that need to be fixed.

M Indyke clarified the cost to be 897 dollars per section with 32 sections totaling around 30,000 dollars. C Richter replied yes that is the estimate. Woodstock has a grant writer who is trying to get a grant to purchase materials to complete the project.

M Indyke commented that using the polyethylene barrels that Public Works has will cut off 200 dollars per platform. John Stassen commented that the presentation needs a map of the area.

#### **FLOOR DISCUSSION:**

Andrew Celentano asked if anyone wanted to add anything to the floor discussion.

M Indyke stated that he and Andrew Celentano went to a Chamber of Commerce meeting to promote the businesses along Route 47. He stated that the Chamber has come up with a program called "Check the Route" that provides maps and websites for the businesses along Route 47. He stated that as a business owner it's a good start and he is happy that they are taking a proactive approach, however he was disturbed that less than 40 people with over 230 businesses showed up for the meeting and that out of 32 restaurants only 6 were Chamber members. He stated that personally he thinks the Chamber needs to meet with businesses face-to-face to promote the benefits of being a Chamber of Commerce member. A Celentano stated everyone on the Commission is part of the Citizen's Advisory Group and there is going to be a meeting in the summer and a public meeting in the winter where M Indyke can also make these comments.

A Celentano stated that he went to a meeting for Route 47 regarding Route 14 South to Reed Rd and asked some questions about the proposed 5-foot sidewalk on one side of the street and an 8-foot multipurpose sidewalk on the opposite side. The question was why not put in a 10-foot multipurpose path and they stated that they didn't have enough money for the other two feet. A Celentano stated that he wrote them a letter asking why they couldn't just change the planned 30-foot wide median to 28 feet and use the extra two feet to make a 10-foot sidewalk. He also asked about putting in areas to pull over transit buses for loading & unloading but was told there was not enough money to do it. He stated that his point was to plan for it, but not do it until the appropriate time.

John Stassen of 105 N Shannon Drive, Woodstock, IL owner of Stassen Insurance, The Truck Insurance Store and two other businesses on Route 47 stated that his businesses represent approximately 5% of the businesses along Route 47. He asked how the Commission came up with the statistics that there was 400 rear-end accidents on Route 47 and asked where the statistic came from. A Celentano clarified that to his recollection; IDOT cited approximately 400 accidents, most of which were rear-end collisions over an eight mile length of roadway. John

Stassen stated that he's asked for that information from IDOT and cannot get a response. M Indyke who also owns a business on Route 47 stated that he sees an accident on Route 47 about once a month. John Stassen stated that he too sees far fewer accidents and believes the statistic to be very high. He states he has asked IDOT when the studies were done and cannot get a reply and he is concerned that the community is relying on statements from IDOT without verification of these statistics. He also asked the Commission if they have done any studies as to how the IDOT Route plan will affect the arterial roadways of the community. Andrew Celentano replied no, not by the Transportation Commission. John Stassen commented that IDOT relates the hard barrier median to traffic safety because it is supposed to prevent side-impact collision though this corridor yet most of the cited collisions were rear-ends. He also pointed out that IDOT does not have studies to say that in the City of Woodstock this barrier will prevent any more impacts. He also pointed out that of the 500 people that leave his premises each day who would normally turn North on Route 47 will soon, per IDOT's recommended plan, have to turn South on Route 47 and make a U-Turn at Route 47 and Route 14, which, as far as he knows, has far more fatalities than any other intersection in the community. He asked the Commission if there have been any studies about the impact this plan will have on community services due to the number of accidents and fatalities that will occur. J Osborn stated that the statistics were based on South Route 47, from Huntley to Woodstock and the Police Departments have to submit their crash reports to the State when they compile it all. He stated that the IDOT engineers have access to a Data Safety Mark website where they have access to the safety statistics, although within these community wide aggregates you will find high traffic intersections such as the one John Stassen is referring to. He stated that IDOT uses standard designs and doesn't like to tailor their plans at this stage of the game. J Stassen further expressed concern that the design IDOT created will create more truck accidents in that corridor. He also asked the Commission if there have been any impact studies on tax revenue. A Celentano recommended that J Stassen follow up with the Woodstock Economic Commission and the City Council for further information on that. J Stassen commented that his one building brings 70,000 dollars in tax revenue to the City and if he needs to have it reassessed and that value drops along with several other businesses that is something to be concerned about because he doesn't want to see that revenue taken away from the community. A Celentano again referred Mr. Stassen to follow up with the Economic Development Department and Woodstock City Council. S Hudson recommended to Mr. Stassen to bring a report with statistics for further ammunition to present to the State since the State is more likely to listen to the City than listen to the Transportation Commission. C Wenzel suggested to Mr. Stassen to file a FOIA to obtain the information he seeks. She stated that it may take time and tenacity, but this is a long term project, it's a matter of record and eventually has to be dealt with. J Stassen thanked the Commission for their time.

**TRANSMITTALS:** (No discussion or action requested)

1. December 2014 Pace Ridership Report
2. January 2015 Pace Ridership report
3. Expansion of MCRide Public Transit Service

A Celentano stated that this looks like it's going to be a precursor to getting fixed routes. Depending on how many people use the same route, it may develop into a bus route.

4. Open House Public Hearing – Reed Road to US Rt. 14 – 3/12/2015

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Potential H.S. Projects

A Celentano stated that Woodstock High School is planning on doubling their Project Lead the Way program so instead of one group of 5 students, they will have two groups of 6 students and they need to figure out how to get different entities involved because the Commission cannot physically do all of it. He stated that the Commission can look forward to at least one project per semester.

J Osborn stated that he called colleagues asked if they had any similar programs for students and found that the Woodstock Transportation Commission is very unique in providing this type of opportunity. He suggested looking into agencies on a county or national level. J Osborn also suggested that the students be given one

project idea and have each group come up with a different approach to solving the problem because in the real world we have alternatives and it will encourage them to look at the problem in slightly different ways.

C Wenzel stated that in the biological environmental world they have the Enviro-thon where students go to different parts of state and analyze soil, plant and water features and see who can do it the fastest and be most accurate. C Wenzel stated that the roundabout project was incredible and that she's been teaching for 14 years and that presentation was amazing. A Celentano stated that the project was entered into a national Project Lead the Way competition.

Dan Lemanski, City Council Candidate suggested that the students look into fiber optics or ways to expand areas in the library. He stated that the students can explore how technology is changing the way we use and access different types of media such as eBooks and Netflix. A Celentano asked if Mr. Lemanski would be the contact for students for projects involving the Library. Mr. Lemanski stated yes.

A Celentano stated that he had a conversation with Jeff Van Landuyt about the existing bike path and thought the kids could figure out where to start it and when. C Wenzel stated that we also need signs so people are aware that the bike path is there.

#### Commission Ideas for Future H.S. Projects

A Celentano along with the rest of the Commission agreed that future projects may include:

- A. Bike Path including where to start it and signage
- B. Design functional bike racks
- C. Alternative median types for Route 47
- D. East side and West side Frontage roads
- E. How can Route 47 be configured to keep businesses from disappearing
- F. What to do with the old gas stations on Route 47

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Continued Review/Update of 2005 Transportation Plan
2. Plan for Commission's Sidewalk Presentation to City Council – March 2015 A Celentano suggested giving the plan to City Council for feedback and approval.
3. Railroad Freight Traffic vs. Passenger Traffic – March 2015
4. Street Cars Discussion – April 2015
5. County Fair Transit Bus – April 2015

#### **ADJOURN:**

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission at 8:12 PM to a Special Meeting April 15, 2015 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, C. Wenzel, M. Indyke, J. Osborn, S. Hudson. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion Carried

**ADJOURN:** To a Special Meeting April 15, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk