

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**March 16, 2016**  
**City Council Chambers**

A meeting of the Transportation Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Andrew Celentano at 7:14 PM on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Caron Wenzel, Susan Hudson, Jason Osborne, and Chairman Andrew Celantano.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Indyke,

**STAFF PRESENT:** Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

J. Van Landuyt informed the Commission that the City hired HLR, Hampston, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc., to do a study of Rte. 47 between Lake Avenue & Irving Avenue regarding the need of crosswalks in this area. A. Celentano said that he gave a presentation to City Council last night, March 15, 2016. J. Van Landuyt will send the Minutes from the City Council meeting to Commission member.

A. Celentano said if everything goes well with the Rte. 47 updates, it won't be ready until 2026. People movers = driver-less vehicles.

McHenry County Transportation Committee held a recent meeting in which their roundabout project at Charles & Raffel Road got voted down. A. Celentano said he's concerned that this roundabout was declined due to safety issues. A roundabout would be helpful in this area, especially for kids travelling from the many schools on the north side of town. J. Osborne said many years ago T. Clifton & J. Isbell mentioned doing a study for a roundabout in this area because of safety concerns. Johnsbury Road roundabout has had no concerns. The County stopped this project after the Bid letting. It's great that the county has helped out the city with the MC Ride program. Could Roscoe contact the county about this project, or send a letter of support? Plats and legals have been done. Why would the county forego this project when there are safety concerns in the area and all this ground work has already been done? When you look at what the county spends in other communities, why would the county stop this project at this time? It seems that once someone says roundabout the county freezes up. C. Wenzel said, like J. Osborne suggested, bring this up to the county. J. Osborne suggested that the City write a letter to the County's Transportation Committee to address this issue. Ask the County's Commission what can be done to save this roundabout. The City was looking into this roundabout prior to Woodstock North High School being built. The

county had a Bid and a Contract before the project was cancelled. This project was supposed to start in April, 2016, and be completed in late summer before school begins. C. Wenzel said this project should definitely be revisited. Perhaps if they put this through again it will be reconsidered. A. Celentano said it's possible that the County didn't understand the safety features concerning this roundabout.

A. Celentano brought up information from the Pavement Management Task Force. It would make sense if the City of Woodstock could partner with McHenry County to work on these projects; it would be financially smart.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by J. Osborne, second by S. Hudson to accept the January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: J. Osborne, S. Hudson, Chairman Andrew Celantano. Nays: None. Absentees: Mark Indyke. Abstentions: C. Wenzel. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from February 17, 2016 Meeting. All Commission attendees were not present, so the Minutes were not approved.**

**FLOOR DISCUSSION:** Anyone wishing to address the Commission on an item not already on the agenda may do so at this time.

1. Public Comments: None.
2. Commission Comments

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

1. Huntley, Woodstock discuss bike crossings for Rt. 47, Northwest Herald, 2/22/2016. This item was not discussed. This item will be added to a future Agenda.

2. Article from column in Northwest Herald, 3/7/2016. This item was not discussed. This item will be added to a future Agenda.

3. Why You Shouldn't be Allowed to Drive, TIME Magazine, 3/7/2016

A. Celentano suggested that "Why You Shouldn't be Allowed to Drive, TIME Magazine" is added to a future Agenda; March 2017. J. Osborne said that something like this may come to fruition in 2035. Cars could park in a remote lot and then be called to your location when needed. Would the City allow people to be dropped off anywhere; ie, loading / unloading? Planning ahead of time might lend Woodstock to be an early promoter of this. Commission members brought up topics such as insurance for a driver-less vehicle, parking locations, cost of parking, parking permits or stickers. S. Hudson asked, "Would people give up their power and allow their vehicle to go park itself"? J. Osborne said there's a generational divide; driving is not as much of a right-of-passage as it used to be. Would the City start with something similar to the microbus rather than dealing with individual's driver-less vehicles? C. Wenzel said, just driving in here tonight, the Square is packed; there's a lot going on. Using the Square as a through street, this might be a good place to use this type of vehicle. Perhaps it would be best to designate loading zones in this area. S. Hudson said the issue with public transportation

is you have to add 30-60 minutes to everything you want to do. You have to wait for rides versus when you have your own vehicle you can come and go when you please. J. Osborne said a study was done that said 30% of vehicles are driving around looking for parking spots. A. Celentano said it is a generational thing. Kids are dealing with computers from the start. A. Celentano said there are areas where people use public transportation because when they get to their destination there's nowhere to park their vehicle. J. Osborne, said when people are looking at capital costs, look at what peoples changing needs are. This might be something to look at before building new roads, buildings, and parking lots. Some roads might not require turn lanes, and some areas might not need wider roads and rights-of-way. S. Hudson said she read on GOOGLE that in 5 years vehicles may have a \$15,000 option to have a self-driving car. C. Wenzel said the Square doesn't have much parking, so driver-less vehicles would be a great option. J. Osborne talked about vehicles loading & unloading. A. Celentano said the Commission will put this on a future Agenda. J. Van Landuyt added, as example, near the Opera House.

4. Pedestrian Crossing, Wikipedia (handed out at 2/17 mtg). This item was not discussed. This item will be added to a future Agenda.

5. Marking and Signing Crosswalks (handed out at 2/17 mtg). This item was not discussed. This item will be added to a future Agenda.

6. Curb Extensions (handed out at 2/17 mtg)

J. Osborne talked about the bump-outs. Does the bump-out give people a space to stand / wait before crossing the street? C. Wenzel said stiping on pavement helps people to cross the street. A. Celentano said it's about finding the location where striping would work the best. Should the Commission look into this to determine where painted crosswalks are most needed? C. Wenzel agreed that this would be beneficial for the Commission to look into. The street that's on the west side of BMO Harris Bank is very narrow and difficult to cross. Also, the streets near District 200 offices and down from St. Mary School; Tryon Street & Judd Street. A. Celentano asked the Commission members to make notes when they're driving around the Square and Woodstock to see where striping / crosswalks are most needed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Microbus – update

J. Osborne talked about loading & unloading, such as near places like Hearthstone as well as what type of vehicle would be most important. S. Hudson asked if a charging station would be needed, and wondered about spending on this type of vehicle used. J. Osborne asked about the PACE bus. Can the PACE bus be used for other events or opportunities? A. Celentano asked if the PACE bus could be used for an event at a City park or on the Square. J. Osborne said it would have to be determined what paths this vehicles could take. A. Celentano asked what kind of bus would be best, where would the bus go to load & unload? What paths could a bus like this take? J. Osborne said this needs to be narrowed down; what are the physical constraints? A. Celentano said the City could use event horses / barricades to delineate the path. C. Wenzel said the most important

question is what type of vehicle should be purchased. Also, find out what businesses may want to support this opportunity. S. Hudson said it would be best to start using this type of vehicle for events. J. Osborne said the County fair has a lot of issues with parking, so this would be a great event to start with. S. Hudson said people could park at Emricson Park and catch the bus to the Square or to the County Fair. C. Wenzel said the City could start with the county fair, but this would be a great opportunity to get restaurants to advertise and bring people to Woodstock. She added that someone should talk to the McHenry County Fair Commission to find out if they'd be interested in partnering with the City for this type of opportunity. A. Celentano said that would be a great experience for the City to find out if this type of vehicle would work. S. Hudson said the City & Commission would have to find out what the cost would be. J. Osborne said you'd have to figure out what the cost of the contract is.

2. Sidewalk Snow Removal. This item was not discussed. This item will be added to a future Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Crash Reports from Woodstock P.D. on IL Rt. 47 between U.S. Rt. 14 & Irving Ave. J. Van Landuyt said that HLR will determine what modifications IDOT would have to make to accommodate crosswalks at specific intersections. S. Hudson asked if the report can be sorted by location. J. Van Landuyt said Woodstock Police Department could probably do this. He will check into this. The Commission brought up the incidence of hit & run accidents.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Microbus
2. Student Presentations to the Mayor & City Council – April 19, 2016
3. Presentation of Bike Path Plan to Parks & Recreation Commission – May 10, 2016
4. Presentation of Bike Rental Plan & Bike Rack to Transportation Commission May 11, 2016. Move to an Agenda in 2017.

The Commission discussed ideas of possible projects for the City of Woodstock, including projects that the high school students can coordinate and/or manage. Perhaps projects that go along with the City's Transportation Plan. These projects could be placed on the City's website and compiled into a Transportation Report to highlight the work that the Commission has supported and brought to fruition. The Commission discussed the work that the high school students did regarding the roundabout. Commission members are very impressed with the amount of detail that the project included.

A. Celentano has had some discussion with G. Carlson, a teacher at Northwood. G. Carlson would like to get students involved in these sorts of projects.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by S. Hudson, second by C. Wenzel to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission. Ayes: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Susan Hudson, Jason

Osborne, and Chairman A. Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next meeting of the Transportation Commission will be a Special Meeting on April 20, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie  
Chief Deputy Clerk