

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting
January 15, 2014
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Dianne Mitchell, McDOT Transportation Planner Jason Osborn

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by S. Hudson to accept the August 21, 2013 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, C. Wenzel, Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: M. Indyke. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Hudson, second by M. Indyke to accept the September 18, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: S. Hudson, C. Wenzel, M. Indyke. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: Chairman A. Celentano. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to accept the November 20, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, M. Indyke. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: C. Wenzel. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Indyke, second by C. Wenzel to accept the December 18, 2013 Special Meeting minutes with the following changes:

Per A. Celentano:

Page 3, second paragraph, second sentence, should say, "the students said a Woodstock police officer..."

Page 4, 3rd paragraph, last sentence, should say, "...bikes can be ridden on the road with cars..."

Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, C. Wenzel, M. Indyke. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: S. Hudson. Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

None

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Overview of 1/9/2014 Meeting w/ students @ Marian Central

M. Indyke reported that he met with the Engineering Club Advisor at Marian and went over the three projects that they would like to emphasize; bike routes, sidewalk material, and asking the City to pass a snow removal ordinance for sidewalks. A. Celentano questioned if there will be three groups and M. Indyke stated that he wasn't sure if the sidewalk materials would be part of the second group. A. Celentano felt that the snow removal ordinance will be a little difficult for them. M. Indyke reported that he recommended that the students meet with Roscoe who can give them some input on how ordinances are implemented.

M. Indyke reported that the students said that they are going to take pictures and make a presentation and perhaps make a presentation to City Council as well. J. Van Landuyt advised that the students can do a presentation during floor discussion.

A. Celentano asked the Commission if they have any feelings regarding the students' idea to create a change to an ordinance and S. Hudson stated that it is just an intellectual exercise and they should be able to explore whatever they want to. M. Indyke stated that any resident can address the City Council; they can make a case about snow removal. S. Hudson stated that it is a definite barrier to transportation so it would be appropriate.

J. Osborn stated that engineering is a big part of snow storage. He stated that this has been a brutal winter and he feels that the project is timely. He thinks the project would give the students an opportunity to think of the intended and unintended consequences of this type of ordinance.

C. Wenzel referenced the use of beet juice on icy roads and questioned if it can be used on sidewalks and whether the students could recommend it too. J. Van Landuyt advised that there are liquid de-icers for sidewalks. C. Wenzel stated that putting the de-icer on the sidewalks would help make the passage safer. M. Indyke suggested having the inventor meet with the students and J. Osborn advised that his name is Mark DeVries.

M. Indyke stated that he has another meeting scheduled for February 23, 2014 and advised that the students will be present and the group will be able to monitor their progress.

2. Consideration of revisions & acceptance of Chapter 3 – 2005 Transportation Plan

M. Indyke questioned the Commission's thoughts on asking the City to consider an ordinance regarding snow removal on sidewalks. He stated that he knows there are legal ramifications but noted that most communities do have an ordinance. He reported that there have been some fatalities this past winter from people slipping on the ice. The group felt a line should be added regarding the consideration of a snow removal ordinance for sidewalks.

C. Wenzel advised that she agrees with everything and thinks Chapter 3 is good. S. Hudson referenced the special requirements for the downtown area and advised that the Mayor talked about the Commission possibly recommending other areas or nodes that should receive similar attention or 'special treatment'.

M. Indyke stated that the problem he sees with other areas (away from the downtown) is that they would be out of the TIF district and out of the area that the City could get grants for improvements. He stated that outside this area would mean the City would be bearing

the costs or trying to get the landowners or developers to bear the costs. He stated that schools, parks, and shopping areas are addressed in the plan. S. Hudson stated that she believes the Mayor is referring to finding other areas i.e. Wisted's or the Jewel grocery stores. She stated that the Mayor asked the Commission to define whether there is a need for other special areas that would be treated more like the Square and to define those areas. She believes that this request from the Mayor would be appropriate to include in the plan.

C. Wenzel questioned when Rt. 47 is widened if there should there be a policy in place where the City requests that IDOT puts in the pedestrian access. She questioned if it should be included in the plan. A. Celentano stated that CAG did talk about putting sidewalks up and down Rt. 47. C. Wenzel stated that she wants to make sure that it happens and questioned if there is a need to write a request or an ordinance.

J. Osborn stated that it would be more direct if the City wrote to IDOT about the project itself. He advised that IDOT would provide the City different opportunities during the project development as part of the advisory committee or stakeholder group. He advised that the City could probably write a letter at any time directed to IDOT regarding the project. He stated that it would then be a formal request and he noted that once the engineers receive it they will have to answer it somehow. S. Hudson stated that everything she saw at the meetings included sidewalks. J. Osborn stating that putting it on Woodstock letterhead and sending it to the district engineer is a way to work the bureaucracy a little bit more.

M. Indyke questioned if sidewalk improvements in a four block radius can be done for retail establishments as well as schools. S. Hudson stated that is part of what the Commission needs to define. She advised that the Mayor specifically asked the Commission to define other zones; not something around a single institution. She noted that it needs to be done to finish off the sidewalk project but advised that they can include in the plan that there is a goal to identify additional areas especially commercial areas or bounded areas that will be maintained and supervised more aggressively. She stated that it might be the definition of a corridor like getting from the Square to Jewel. She advised that the identification of new areas/corridors that are subject to special requirements could be a checkpoint.

3. Letter from IDOT Dated 12/18/2013 re: traffic signal flashing mode

M. Indyke stated that it looks like it can't be done. A. Celentano stated that he felt some of the arguments were a little weak. M. Indyke thinks it is strange that when making a left turn from Country Club onto Rt. 47 the light is always only green for two cars.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pedestrian Crossings – IL Rt. 47

A. Celentano stated that this agenda item is in regards to people crossing Rt. 47 on foot and he noted that he thinks the biggest problem is Lake Ave. and Rt. 47. M. Indyke affirmed and included Country Club and Rt. 47 and noted that both intersections need either walk signs or designated crossings.

J. Osborn included that the right in and right out by Panera and Jewel is hard to see and the lanes merging by Jewel where people are trying to cross is a problem. He stated that it is a

high pedestrian volume area and he questioned how many people would be out there if the area was walk able. He stated that crosswalks would be good everywhere along the route.

S. Hudson questioned if would be easier to have the pedestrian crossing at a less complicated intersection like McConnell. S. Hudson noted it is the expense of determining who is paying for it that is a problem too. J. Osborn stated that when a person is on foot and its zero degrees, they aren't going to 300 feet out of their way to cross and they are going to cross where and whenever they can.

C. Wenzel stated that there is a need to build in connectivity between the areas that are desirable to cross. She stated that if you come out from Bull Valley Ford there are sidewalks in front of Ralph's and then the sidewalks are spotty all the way down until you get to Harding, but at Bull Valley Ford there is nothing and goes down into a ditch forcing people to walk in the street. She stated that people cross Rt. 47 to go to Catalpa. S. Hudson stated that Catalpa has great sidewalks on both sides. C. Wenzel stated that they are crossing Rt. 47 to get to Catalpa. S. Hudson advised that it makes more sense to have a pedestrian light that can only operate when a pedestrian is there. A. Celentano provided information on a pedestrian light on 34th Street in New York, a pedestrian operated green light that is green all the time unless someone pushes the button.

M. Indyke stated that there is a pedestrian light on Rt. 120 and Rt. 47 where you can push a button and then cross the street. S. Hudson stated that it wouldn't be a timed light; it would be green all the time. J. Osborn stated that there would be the normal phasing for the light, but it gives the pedestrian a way to preempt the signal timings for the vehicles so they don't have to wait the full cycle of the signals for all the traffic. M. Indyke questioned if it stops the traffic in all directions and J. Van Landuyt advised that it will stop traffic opposing the direction that the pedestrian is traveling.

J. Osborn stated that some of the pedestrian issues are related to continuing that access and noted that if we get ahead and provide additional pedestrian access from the neighborhoods around the corridor to the businesses then it should mitigate some of the access issues when the construction starts on Rt. 47.

A. Celentano asked for an idea of what it would cost for that kind of light. J. Osborn advised that if it is a whole new system on its own then it is basically the same cost as a signalization. J. Van Landuyt stated that a ballpark would be \$300,000 - \$500,000 and he noted that full signalization is about \$800,000-\$900,000.

M. Indyke suggested a simpler solution with less cost like the temporary sign on Throop St. that sits by the crosswalk which makes people aware that they have to stop for pedestrians.

The group discussed the Fairgrounds and how it impacts the area and pedestrian crossings. C. Wenzel stated that connectivity is important but it is hard to describe what it is. She advised that there is a need for a policy that alleviates congestion and facilitates pedestrian and bicycle traffic. She stated that it needs to be emphasized because reducing congestion is the key to making an area desirable for either pedestrians or bicyclists.

2. Commission Members Ideas – brief discussion

S. Hudson stated that the City needs to work with the County to get pedestrian access from the PADS day site into the City of Woodstock. She advised that numerous people complain to her about people being out in the road on Kishwaukee Valley Road. She stated that there is a need to get people with no cars from the train station to the PADS site. J. Osborn noted that the water park, Emricson Park, Square, the library and PADS could be considered a corridor.

C. Wenzel noted that the social security office is on the other end of town in the middle of nowhere. S. Hudson stated it is another issue with having to cross Rt. 14 to get to the social security office. J. Van Landuyt stated that the City met with IDOT and he advised the Commission that IDOT has agreed to include a light at Rt. 14 and Lake Shore Drive when they construct planned improvements to US Rt. 14.

S. Hudson stated that the PADS site is the County office and noted that every day people go back to the office for the daytime and then they get on a bus that takes them to different churches. She advised that they are told that they need to go to the PADS office to get an ID. J. Van Landuyt advised that it might be cheaper to move the location. S. Hudson questioned why they would put it so far out of town and stated that they have it out of town but now the people are going to get hit going down the road. She stated that they are going to walk unless there are fixed bus routes that run to and from the train station. She emphasized the importance of getting them off the roads.

J. Osborn stated that there are similar service institutions that find themselves located in remote areas around Woodstock. He noted that it is something to think about from a pedestrian access standpoint. He stated that it is frustrating from a transportation standpoint because the services that people are trying to access are all over the place. A. Celentano stated that the “not in my backyard” is a real issue.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Continued Review of Transportation Plan – February 2014 Meeting
2. Discussion on Frontage Roads along IL Rt. 47 Corridor – February 2014 Meeting.
The group talked about a possible future discussion regarding access plans for businesses during construction on Rt. 47. A. Celentano removed the item and made it his responsibility.
3. Prioritizing Sidewalks – March 2014 Meeting
4. Bike Rental Plan – Discussion & Recommendation - March 2014 Meeting
5. Access to and from the PADS office
6. Access to and from the Social Security office
7. Performance measures regarding bike/ped programs being employed by communities around Woodstock

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by C. Wenzel to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission to the special meeting February 19, 2014 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, C. Wenzel, M. Indyke. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mitchell - City Clerk