

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

January 21, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Celentano, Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn (arrived at 8:09), Susan Hudson

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mark Indyke, second by Caron Wenzel to accept the December 17, 2014 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Caron Wenzel, Mark Indyke, Jason Osborn, Susan Hudson, Chairman Andrew Celentano. Nays: None. Absentees: None Abstentions: None Motion carried.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

A. Celentano suggested that the roundabout project should be put into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). J. Van Landuyt stated that it is in the CIP as a TIF district request.

A. Celentano stated that Lake County is building a two-lane roundabout on a marsh with pylons and the project is estimated to cost \$6.5 million. Woodstock's proposed roundabout has an estimated construction cost of 1.6 million dollars.

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. November 2014 Pace Ridership Report

A. Celentano read over the report. M. Indyke stated that, per the Ridership Report, the maximum subsidy recommended is covered.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Suggestions for Future Student Projects/Presentations

A. Celentano stated that next year, Woodstock North High School may participate in the Project Lead the Way program however they can't do the same projects unless that is what we want. They do have a full machine shop and carpentry room. He stated that doing the roundabout presentation was a fantastic exercise for their age group. M. Indyke stated that he would like to see a frontage road project connecting the Walgreens to the Burger King. A. Celentano stated that the Commission tabled the frontage road discussions until they begin work on Route 47. The commission discussed possible options for frontage roads. A. Celentano stated that one project could be to design a frontage road on the east side of Rt. 47 from McConnell Road to Country Club Road. And a separate project could include the west side. Susan Hudson stated that it could be split into two projects. S. Hudson stated that one side would be enough for a project of this scope. A. Celentano stated that the project design would be specific to the transportation arena. M. Indyke added that they would want them to build

something safe and handicap accessible. J. Osborn stated that the students have already done a lot of sidewalk projects and asked if they could take the projects to a different level. The commission discussed different project options. C. Wenzel suggested that they build circuit boards that do different things with switches or design a sensor for streetlights. A. Celentano suggested designing an application using a sensor to open a door rather than push a button. C. Wenzel stated that they can do an app on a phone or research apps to do something with an automatic door. M. Indyke suggested they design an app to find out where the bus is. J. Osborn stated that they design a bus tracker. S. Hudson stated that designing apps might be a little too much to ask of them. C. Wenzel stated that they could just ask them. S. Hudson stated that the app would have to function. M. Indyke added that they don't know what the students' skill level is. A. Celentano asked how the students would go about building a bus tracker. S. Hudson stated that first, they could purchase an app that exists, or they could evaluate the best packages out there for Woodstock to buy because they wouldn't have enough time to write software.

J. Osborn stated that they could work on optimizing school bus routes. M. Indyke stated that he would like to know when the bus is to arrive within a specific amount of time, especially with the cold temperatures. S. Hudson stated that she would like to know how they did the bus routes now. She stated that she is sure there must be software packages out there for this and it could be a fun project. District 200 Transportation would need to be contacted to ask how they go about the optimization process.

S. Hudson stated that she is interested in snow removal on sidewalks. She stated that there is a terrible foot bridge that goes over a certain marsh that's steep with bare wood and as soon as the lightest frost settles on it you can't walk on it. She stated that the students could work on making the existing bridge usable. A. Celentano stated that they would also have to make it ADA compliant. C. Wenzel stated that it is a bridge built by a private owner that was then donated to Woodstock and needs to be upgraded.

A. Celentano suggested that the students may be able to study the impact of the Route 47 expansion on small business and find out what the short and long term implications might be. M. Indyke stated that it would be difficult to project the implications, however they could go to other communities and gather information. S. Hudson stated that they could gather statistics on it. She stated that they could find out what types of businesses closed and what ones survived. J. Osborn stated that they could do a case study project and look at, for example, Crystal Lake or Huntley and gather historical sales tax and property tax data. S. Hudson stated that they could find out what tactics the businesses used to survive. S. Hudson stated that they could look into what could've been done differently to save businesses. J. Osborn stated that the students could hypothesize and talk with those businesses that fared better and find out what helped the business survive, for example; was it access, or a unique draw; did they have a bigger customer base, could people easily walk there? M. Indyke stated that they could present their findings to the local business community stating measures that could be used to help them survive the improvement project. A. Celentano stated that they will have to see if any of these suggestions will fit with the Project Lead the Way program.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of new project w/ WHS EDD Students

A. Celentano stated that he and J. Van Landuyt attended the January 13 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to present the students wetland walkway project and to ask them to participate in the civic process with these students and their Project Lead the Way program. A. Celentano stated that the Woodstock grant writer is working on getting a grant to pay for materials to build a better

walkway. M. Indyke stated that the project is worthwhile and if they can get funding for it than that's even better.

A. Celentano stated that Mary Donner, from PACE, wants to see the report the students did on a bus system for Woodstock. J. Van Landuyt followed up and e-mailed the project in early February.

The commission discussed having a railroad coach yard in Woodstock and how it would allow additional services. J. Osborn stated that there is a coach yard in Barrington and Crystal Lake. A coach yard beyond Woodstock would bring Crystal Lake service level to Woodstock.

2. Plan for Commission's Sidewalk Presentation to City Council – February 2015

No comments

3. Review of updates to Chapter 7 – 2005 Transportation Plan – January 2015

A. Celentano asked the commission if there were any comments about the body of the report. M. Indyke asked if they are still including the widening of the bridge over Route 47. A. Celentano stated that if roundabouts were installed they won't need to replace the bridge. He stated that at some point in time they will widen the bridge and possibly do it sooner if the bridge fails.

J. Osborn questioned whether there was a section in the 2005 Transportation Plan dedicated to parking? He stated that when planners started implementing parking ordinances, they went to a minimal requirement attitude amply applied over 50 years that you can't have too much parking. He also stated that today the question is; how can you do minimal parking. He stated that a lot of parking issues are still there. He stated that if we didn't have a section on parking, maybe we can look at parking ordinances to see what the minimums and maximums are based on. A. Celentano stated that the parking requirements are based on the number of building occupants. He stated that parking requirements should reflect the type of business that is operating in the building. J. Osborn stated that the parking ordinances are based on old studies and lead to the inability to repurpose sites today.

S. Hudson asked what the City's philosophy is on parking. She stated that they've done a lot of parking studies on the square so they must have a philosophy. M. Indyke asked if Harley Davidson needs that much parking. C. Wenzel replied that yes they do because they have huge events; helicopter rides, wall to wall bikers and bands. M. Indyke referred to the Farm & Fleet parking lot and how large it is. C. Wenzel stated that Farm & Fleet got a variance on parking because they threatened to leave. She stated that beyond the lot is a paved space that could be a multipurpose space or maybe even a floodplain. S. Hudson stated that parking on the Square is adequate as stated in the report. J. Osborn stated that they need to summarize the City's attitude toward parking and go from there. He asked the commission if that is a good suggestion, the commission agreed.

A. Celentano referred to the first page, fourth paragraph, and last sentence of Chapter Seven and asked whether the City has any idea how much the local share for this project might be. J. Van Landuyt replied that the City had to pay a portion of the costs associated with improvements to U.S. Rt. 14 such as utility relocation and traffic signalization. A. Celentano asked that this cost or percentage be identified in the chapter.

A. Celentano referred to page two, first paragraph that states "Phase 1 (preliminary design & environmental study) and Phase II (preparation of final design and construction bid documents) have been funded through the State of Illinois." and asked about the status of it. He asked if land acquisitions have not been appropriated. M. Indyke replies that land has not been appropriated and according to IDOT, the project has been funded through the State of Illinois.

A. Celentano then referred to the third paragraph, fourth sentence and asked if the ten foot shared path on the East side and the five foot path on the West side of 47 could be switched because there are more businesses on the West side of Route 47. Jeff Van Landuyt replied that there is not enough right-of-way to do a ten foot path

on the West side. S. Hudson stated that this is a just a report on what IDOT plans to do. S. Hudson stated that they could make it a student project and have them analyze how large a path it should be and where it should be laid.

A. Celentano referred to the bridge on Route 47 and stated that we don't know how long the bridge is supposed to last and he would like to find out when it needs to be redone. M. Indyke stated that Nationwide 60 percent of our bridges are endangered.

A. Celentano discussed collector streets and asked if any street classifications will change when Route 47 is widened. J. Van Landuyt replied no, but growth and the need for additional capacity may change designations in the future.

A. Celentano referred to page five, second paragraph, third sentence and asked what SRA stood for. He stated that SRA should be spelled out in the body of the report.

Other goals identified by A. Celentano include: Support efforts to reduce at grade railroad crossings caused by developments and expansions and develop partnerships with local businesses that may be affected by the Route 47 expansion.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Continued Review/Update of 2005 Transportation Plan**
- 2. Plan for Commission's Sidewalk Presentation to City Council – February 2015**
- 3. Presentation on Enterprise Zone Ordinance – February 2015**
- 4. Railroad Freight Traffic vs. Passenger Traffic – February 2015**
- 5. Street Cars Discussion – March 2015**
- 6. County Fair Transit Bus – March 2015**
- 7. City Policy regarding Parking**

ADJOURN:

Motion by M. Indyke, second by S. Hudson to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission to the Special Meeting February 18, 2015 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, C. Wenzel, M. Indyke, J. Osborn, S. Hudson. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk