



Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held remotely on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, broadcasted from city hall, 203 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Godek at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present

Dan Godek, Chairperson
Amanda Morris-Smith
Richard Karlowski
Thomas Allen
Andrew Kowalkowski
Mark Steiner

Also Present

Holly Donoghue, P.E., City Engineer
Stephen Pernal, Civil Engineer III
Jennifer Caudill, Municipal Clerk III
Joseph Murphy, Planning Director

Absent

Blaine Tillander (alternate)
Belem Morales

3. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

4. Public Comment

- Patrick McGee of 4524 Elmhurst spoke, requesting temporary crosswalk signs be replaced at the Normandy and Durham crosswalk until the solar flashing signs can be installed.

5. Rescheduled Items/Old Business

City Engineer, Holly J. Donoghue, updated the committee on the city commission resolutions from the previous traffic committee meeting and recommendations.

6. Business Items

6.A Request to review traffic calming options for Nakota Road between Delemere Boulevard and Woodland Avenue

A request was received from Susan Sims of 4403 Woodland to review traffic calming options for Nakota Road. She states vehicles speed on Nakota Road between the stop signs at Woodland Avenue and Delemere Boulevard, sometimes not even stopping for the sign at Woodland. She is concerned with the danger this poses with the new park and the children and elderly who use it.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- Patrick McGee of 4524 Elmhurst spoke, informing the committee that the existing Stop sign is bent away from the road, making it hard to see for drivers.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends installing a pedestrian crossing island on Nakota Road, just west of the driveway for Normandy Oaks park as part of the 2021 road resurfacing project, and to replace the bent stop sign at the intersection of Nakota Road and Woodland Avenue.

Moved by: Richard Karlowski

Supported by: Thomas Allen

Motion adopted unanimously

6.B Request to install 'No Trucks' sign and permanent radar speed sign on Benjamin Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Carmen Avenue

A request was received from George J. Miller of 2312 Benjamin Avenue regarding increased truck traffic and speeding on Benjamin Avenue. He states especially over the last 6 months, traffic has significantly increased on Benjamin Avenue due to vehicles using as a cut thru. He states driving apps are directing drivers onto Benjamin when Woodward traffic is heavy, and more trucks are using this residential street. The police radar speed trailer was placed on Benjamin temporarily, and this helped greatly with vehicles speeding; he is hoping a permanent radar speed sign can be put in place along with 'No trucks' signs.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E. She also summarized comments that staff received via email, which were forwarded to the committee for review prior to the meeting and are included in the attachments to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- George Miller of 2312 Benjamin spoke regarding his speeding concerns. He stated the morning peak hour is worse northbound and evening peak hours is bad both northbound and southbound. He also stated many drivers blow through the stop sign at Carmen. He proposed adding speed bumps on the block.
- Kenneth Willis of 2313 spoke regarding the excessive speeds he observes especially northbound on Benjamin. Drivers don't even see the Stop sign at Carmen.

- Amy Schoenherr of 2316 Benjamin spoke, stating that the speeding continues to get worse each year.

The city engineer spoke briefly to the committee regarding the installation of speed humps and the feedback she received from other communities who have implemented them.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends denying the request for installation of ‘No Trucks’ signage and a radar speed sign on Benjamin Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Carmen Avenue.

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Mark Steiner

Motion adopted unanimously

6.C Request to install ‘No Parking’ signs on Woodlawn Avenue east of the Rochester Road intersection

A request was received from John Vella of 512 Woodlawn Avenue to add ‘No Parking’ signs east of the Rochester Road intersection. He states all the adjacent streets already have the no parking signage and he has witnessed multiple accidents at the intersection since moving here in November 2017. He states it is also difficult for residents of the ‘Townes at 3506’ to exit their driveway when vehicles are parked on both sides. He has received support for this request from the condo board of ‘Townes at 3506’ and the Woodside Bible Church.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E. She also summarized comments that staff received via email, which were forwarded to the committee for review prior to the meeting and are included in the attachments to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- John Vella, vice president of the condo association, spoke regarding his support of the staff recommendation.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends installing a “No Parking this side of sign” sign on the south side of Woodlawn Avenue, just west of the condominium driveway at 512 Woodlawn Avenue.

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

6.D Request to install speed bumps or stop ahead signs, and to install sidewalk across Vinsetta Boulevard at Lawndale Drive.

A request was received from Angela Cortese of 1105 Vinsetta Boulevard to install speed bumps, stop ahead signs, or other alerts to keep drivers from ignoring the stop sign for

northbound traffic on Vinsetta Boulevard at Lawndale Drive. She notes that drivers often ignore the sign, and she has already contacted the police several times. She also requests that a sidewalk be installed north/south to allow pedestrians to cross the road at this intersection.

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E. She also summarized comments that staff received via email, which were forwarded to the committee for review prior to the meeting and are included in the attachments to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- Angele Cortese of 1105 Vinsetta spoke requesting the stop sign remain in place. She is concerned by the excessive speeds of drivers and requested a traffic calming solution. She requested that the stop sign at Lawndale remain in place. She stated that a pedestrian was hit by a car in front of her home this year.
- Chris Meister of 1066 Vinsetta spoke stating that drivers are using Vinsetta as a cut-through and he would like to see some traffic calming installed.
- Jennifer Southwood of 1312 Vinsetta spoke, stating that drivers are also blowing through the stop sign at Greenleaf. Lots of new families have moved in the past few years and she suggested adding the flashers to the existing stop signs to alert drivers. She also suggested adding a second stop sign to each intersection in the median for more visibility and did not want to see the stop sign removed.
- Chris Buchanan of 1204 Vinsetta spoke, agreeing with his neighbors that drivers are blowing the stop signs and the speeding is excessive.
- Teri Shaffer of 1130 Vinsetta spoke in opposition of the Stop sign removal. Police presence can be very effective.
- Ben Rowe of 1115 Vinsetta spoke in opposition of the Stop sign removal.

The Citizens Traffic Committee voted to table the request until a more comprehensive traffic study including speeds and truck volumes is completed by staff.

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

6.E Request to remove paved parking areas within the Delemere Boulevard right-of-way.

Staff is seeking public input and the traffic committee's recommendation regarding the roadway design of Delemere Boulevard from W. 14 Mile Road to Normandy Road. The staff proposal was presented by City Engineer, Holly J. Donoghue and Director of Planning, Joseph Murphy.

City Engineer, Holly J. Donoghue, summarized comments that staff received via email, which were forwarded to the committee for review prior to the meeting and are included in the attachments to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to those interested in speaking on this issue.

- James Rasor, representing Art Harrison Interiors, spoke regarding the need these businesses have for the ROW parking and the hardships they would face if it was

removed. He requested a more comprehensive study be performed as well as collaboration with the business owners.

- Patrick McGee of 4524 Elmhurst spoke in support of removing the parking. He spoke about concerns as a pedestrian with vehicles blocking the sidewalks and potential accidents due to site distance and blind spot issues.
- Ted of Birmingham Imports at 4310 Delemere spoke in opposition of the parking removal and the hardships his business would face.
- Paul Choukourian of 4507 Delemere spoke regarding the hardship his business would face with the parking removal. He was in support of possible angled or parallel parking.
- Jim Rasor summarized a letter from James and Diane of Olsen Manufacturing at 4353 Delemere spoke about the need to separate their customer parking from where trucks are coming in and out of the shipping area and that they were in favor of collaborating with the city on a solution that works for everyone.
- Gerald Drouillard of 4411 Delemere stated it would be devastating to his business to lose the parking in the ROW. He asked if the city would be sending violations or fines to the businesses.
- Bob Kelly of 4350 Delemere spoke about the added safety of having the customer parking in the ROW separate from the business parking where trucks are coming and out. He doesn't think pedestrians and trucks mix and that this area should not be catered towards pedestrians. He noted that customers would need to start parking on neighborhood streets if the parking is removed. He asked for a more comprehensive study to be performed.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends denying the request to research allocating CDBG funding to improve Delemere Boulevard by removing all pavement in the adjacent public right-of-way except for driveway approaches and sidewalk, resurfacing the roadway, adding bike route signage and sharrows, restoring the public right-of-way with seed/sod and trees, and installing traffic calming measures along the route; and also directs staff to prepare more detailed design options for Delemere Boulevard for presentation to the traffic committee at a future date.

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Mark Steiner

Motion adopted unanimously

7. Information Only Items

Member Richard Karlowski spoke to staff regarding the pedestrian crosswalks at 11 Mile & Main and 11 Mile & Troy stating you only receive the 'walk' signal if you press the button, this could be confusing for pedestrians since those are very busy crosswalks typically. City Engineer Holly Donoghue stated she will investigate to see if making these automatic would be appropriate.

8. Adjourn

Upon the motion of Richard Karlowksi, seconded by Amanda Morris-Smith, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Cc: Traffic Committee Members, Inc. Ex-Officio Members:

Shelly Kamp, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Beth Fitzpatrick, Royal Oak School Superintendent
Candi Drouillard, PTA Council President
Corrigan O'Donoghue, Police Chief
Lieutenant Chris Annetta
Dave Cummins, Fire Chief
Tim Thwing, Director of Community Development
Aaron Filipski, Director of Recreation and Public Services