



Citizens Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021

A regular meeting of the Royal Oak Citizens Traffic Committee was held remotely on Tuesday, March 23, 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
Belem Morales
Blaine Tillander (alternate)

Also Present

Holly Donoghue, P.E., City Engineer
Stephen Pernal, Civil Engineer III
Jennifer Caudill, Municipal Clerk III
Lt. Karly Renaud, Police

Absent

Mark Steiner

3. Approval of Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2021

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

4. Public Comment

None

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 evaluate speeding and truck traffic on Vinsetta Boulevard

A request was originally 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 requested that a sidewalk be installed north/south to allow pedestrians to cross the road at this intersection. This item was tabled at the January 26, 2021 traffic committee meeting in order to obtain additional traffic data for Vinsetta Boulevard.

A second request was received from Susan Frentz of 1617 Vinsetta Boulevard to install 25 mph signs at the northbound and southbound entryways to Vinsetta, post “no trucks” signage, clearly mark crosswalk at all intersections, install stop signs at boulevard crossover at Lawndale, and to maintain the existing stop sign for northbound Vinsetta at Lawndale.

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.

- Angela Cortese of 1105 Vinsetta spoke in favor of adding more speed limit signs but was opposed to the removal of the stop sign at Lawndale, she was concerned about the speeds of motorists entering Vinsetta from Woodward and the safety of pedestrians.
- Jennifer Southwood of 1312 Vinsetta spoke in favor of the additional stop signs at Greenleaf but was opposed to the removal of the stop sign at Lawndale. She spoke about the speeds of cars coming from Woodward onto Vinsetta and the large quantity of pedestrians that use Vinsetta.
- Bill Wolf of 1041 Vinsetta stated motorists come onto Vinsetta extremely fast from Woodward and mentioned that there are many pedestrians in the Vinsetta neighborhood.
- James Carnegie of 1521 Mayfield showed support and agreed with the other commenters.
- Susan Frentz of 1617 Vinsetta spoke about adding a stop sign in the median at Lawndale for northbound Vinsetta, stated she thinks various driving apps are directing motorists to cut through the neighborhood.
- Ben Rowe of 1115 Vinsetta spoke about the stop signs proposed at Greenleaf, wanted to clarify their location.
- Rebecca LeAnne of 1608 Vinsetta was opposed to removing the stop sign at Lawndale and spoke about speeding vehicles between Greenleaf and 12 Mile.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends installing a 25 mph sign on southbound Vinsetta Boulevard just south of 12 Mile Road; installing stop signs within the median of Vinsetta Boulevard at Greenleaf Drive for east/west traffic and installing “all-way” plaques to all the stop signs at this intersection; and to present new sidewalk options for crossing Vinsetta Boulevard to the city commission in 2023 as part of the city sidewalk program.

Moved by: Amanda Morris-Smith

Supported by: Baline Tillander

Motion adopted; (1) NAY – Thomas Allen

6.B Request to install speed bumps on Hoffman Avenue between 10 Mile Road and E. Hudson Avenue

A request was received from Jennifer and Paul Bastian of 1118 Hoffman to install speed bumps on Hoffman Avenue between 10 Mile Road and E. Hudson Avenue. They have noticed increased speeding on their street since moving in two years ago, accidents and near misses, and the death of a cat in the roadway. They note that Hoffman is a major thoroughfare to get to I-696.

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. No one came forward.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends denying the request to install speed bumps on Hoffman Avenue.

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

6.C Albert, Merrill, Parker, Warick, Trafford Neighborhood – Survey results

The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E. First, she summarized the history of these streets and what staff has been working on with residents since 2018 when they began studying the neighborhood for traffic issues. Next, she went through each of the survey questions and the results, as well as the level of interest in the various traffic options presented to residents. Finally, she provided a summary and staff recommendations based on all the history, data, and survey results.

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

- Stephanie Bald of Royalwood Co-Op (Merrill) spoke in favor of temporary speed bumps that could be removed in winter and spoke about how vehicles and trucks crossing over to Merrill from northbound Woodward do not slow down.
- Kara Sokol of 3336 Merrill spoke about how motorists ignored the temporary partial road closure when the study was done and was in support of any kind of speed bumps.
- Mike Ripinski of 3152 Parker spoke about the number of trucks that cut through the neighborhood, doesn't think any signage options will work, and is in favor of removeable speed bumps on all the streets.
- Kim and Simon of Trafford spoke against the idea of a permanent partial road closure.
- Jennifer Viviano of 3337 Parker spoke about vehicles that speed onto Parker from Webster especially during peak hours, she was not opposed to the idea of making the street one way.
- Ursula Mortimer of 3306 Parker spoke about motorists who cut through from Berkley and Southfield, and how they use Parker because it is easier to enter Coolidge from there than Webster. She also mentioned the number of children in the neighborhood now.
- Kathy Ferrando of 3163 Parker spoke in favor of removeable speed bumps.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends staff design and install traffic calming on Trafford Road, saving as much on-street parking as possible for residents, and add the

work by contract modification to a 2021 road project; to install removeable speed humps on Merrill Avenue; and to fund the recommended improvements with funds from the local road millage.

Moved by: Thomas Allen

Supported by: Richard Karlowski

Motion adopted unanimously

6.D Presentation of options for Delemere Boulevard

The city commission had directed staff to prepare parallel on-street parking options for Delemere Boulevard, and to invite the adjacent properties to join and comment. The findings of the Staff Traffic Committee were presented by Holly J. Donoghue, P.E. She presented two parallel parking options staff created and spoke in favor of Option A which added 38 parallel parking spaces, mostly on the east side of the road.

Mr. Godek opened the floor to Jim Rasor, who had prepared an alternative solution. His proposed narrative and plans were emailed to members for review in advance of the meeting and are attached in the minutes.

Mr. Rasor represented an unspecified number of property owners on Delemere. His proposal was to create angled parking which would increase the number of available spaces for businesses and elevate the aesthetic and safety of the corridor. He spoke regarding the need and use of these public parking spaces in the right of way and discussed concerns from the previous city commission meeting. He mentioned the city's master plan objectives which included preserving existing commercial areas and increasing parking. His presented plan included the installation of 45-degree angled parking along Delemere, removal of approximately 42 spaces for green infrastructure, creation of license agreements and improvements funded by the adjacent property owners. He requested the committee table this item so city staff and Nowak & Fraus engineers, who prepared their proposal, work together to complete a full detailed plan to present to the committee and commission.

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

- Patrick McGee of 4524 Elmhurst spoke in support of the staff's proposed plan which allowed for 38 on-street parallel parking spaces.
- Paul Chicori of 4507 Delemere spoke about how the way things are right now are not great and was in support of Mr. Rasor's angled parking proposal. He spoke how this light industrial area should not be excessively pedestrian friendly, that the value of the properties would be reduced if there was no parking in the right of way. He was opposed to the suddenness of this change when the parking has been there for 70 years. He stated the improvements of the corridor will encourage businesses to improve their buildings and property as well.
- Art Harrison Interiors of 4339 Delemere spoke about how not all the businesses have enough parking spaces on private property and they want to work with the city and are in favor of Mr. Rasor's proposal.
- Alan Craw, resident and President of the Board of Directors for the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, spoke about how no one spoke to the property owners on Delemere, and he was in favor of a city and business relationship to improve the corridor. He spoke of

the importance of the Delemere business district and that he was in favor of Mr. Rasor's proposal.

- Patti Sunne of 4326 and 4622 Delemere spoke in opposition to the parallel parking option and noted that they have a fenced in lot that would not be safe for customers/vistors.

The Citizens Traffic Committee recommends presenting two options to the city commission for their decision:

Option 1: To allocate CDBG funding and road millage funding to improve Delemere Boulevard by resurfacing the roadway, removing all pavement in the adjacent public right-of-way except for driveway approaches and sidewalk, include bike route signage and sharrows, restore the public right-of-way with seed/sod and trees, install traffic calming measures along the route, install signage and striping for parallel street parking primarily on the east side of the road as presented by staff.

Option 2: To allow properties to obtain license agreements for angled parking in the right-of-way, funded by the property owner(s) as outlined in the plan submitted by Mr. Jim Rasor.

The traffic committee does not endorse or object to either option in relation to traffic safety. They requested that the city engineer prepare a comparison table weighing the pros and cons of each option for the city commission meeting on April 12, 2021.

Moved by: Blaine Tillander

Supported by: Thomas Allen

Motion adopted unanimously

7. Information Only Items

City Engineer Holly Donoghue notified the committee that staff will be installing temporary stop signs on Troy Street at Third Street due to site distance issues created from the new downtown park project. They will be removed once the park project is complete.

8. Adjourn

Upon the motion of Thomas Allen, seconded by Richard Karlowski, and adopted unanimously, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:43 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