

**MINUTES
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD**

7:00 p.m.

Thursday

March 19, 2009

Chairperson Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Leppanen, McGowan, Mehas, Reynolds, Nebus (ex-officio), Allyn (ex-officio in place of DeCorte)

ABSENT: Chiara, DeCorte (vacation until April 1, 2009)

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. McGowan, seconded by Ms. Mehas, to accept the minutes of February 19, 2009. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Richard Tavalacci (35655 Lone Pine, Farmington Hills 48335-5811/tx 248-471-2010), attended the meeting. Mr. Tavalacci explained how “tight and difficult” it is for northbound Farmington drivers to turn right onto eastbound Shiawassee. Many drivers, school busses and trucks drive over the corner. Mr. Tavalacci believes the problem may be worse since the Shiawassee construction was completed. He suggested the city might consider painted markings (skip lines) on the pavement to guide westbound Shiawassee traffic turning left onto southbound Farmington so drivers don’t cut the corner. Mr. Tavalacci thought this change would give more room to northbound Farmington traffic turning right. Mr. Tavalacci stated similar painted pavement markings exist at eastbound Shiawassee guiding left turn traffic to refrain from cutting the corner while turning left onto Power Road. Mr. Tavalacci distributed a drawing diagramming his concern and suggestions. The Traffic and Safety Board members agreed to visit the site and discuss the issue again at the April 16th meeting.

Mr. Giannini, a Beacon Street resident who informed Director Nebus he was going to appear before the traffic board to discuss unknown traffic situations, did not appear at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Farmington and Freedom (traffic signal)

Mr. Allyn reported authorities at the Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) share the traffic board’s concern that numerous red signal accidents have occurred and the data suggests there is a “traffic safety concern.”

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD MINUTES

March 19, 2009

Page 2

The suggested solution is adding the installation of a low level signal on the northeast corner of the intersection. The low level corner post signal will be more visible for northbound motorists than the existing overhead signals.

Mr. Allyn distributed a report and estimate from the RCOC. The total cost estimate is \$15,538.02. The city's one-half (1/2) contribution would be \$7,769.01. Mr. Allyn believes the need for the post signal installation is serious enough that the county would be willing to proceed with the project.

Mr. Leppanen made a motion to inform city council that the Traffic and Safety Board recommends installing the post signal. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGowan. Motion carried. Director Nebus stated he would convey the request and supports the project, but it may be impacted by available funding.

B. Our Lady of Sorrows (traffic pattern)

Director Nebus stated he was disappointed to learn from Principal Lupinacchi that the parish priest does not want to spend any money or make curb cut changes to accommodate the proposed school bus pick up plan. The director stated he and Mr. DeCorte will be on site April 6th to meet with Principal Lupinacchi and the priest to observe school dismissal without any busses on site. The intent is to simulate how much better traffic can enter and exit the school if school busses are not competing with parent traffic.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A-C added to agenda)

A. Alta Loma and Farmington Road (pedestrian push buttons)

Mr. Allyn presented a written report suggesting moving the pedestrian push buttons on the southeast and southwest corners. RCOC agrees with the recommendation. The total cost estimate is \$14,075.52 which is a fifty percent (50%) city/county split. Upgrading the ADA ramps would be required at a city cost of approximately \$8,500. The total cost to the city would be \$15,537.76. Mr. Allyn stated the biggest pedestrian concern is for northbound Farmington pedestrians wanting to use the first westbound crosswalk to Alta Loma. There is essentially no northbound pedestrian button unless the pedestrian passes the crosswalk and walks to the corner of Orchard and then back to the crosswalk. The same northbound pedestrian would not even know a signal button exists because it is hidden from view. The Traffic and Safety Board realized there may be no funds for the project. Mr. McGowan recommended no formal motion. Chairperson Reynolds suggested reviewing the intersection again and discussing if a new sign should be installed to direct a northbound Farmington Road pedestrian to the hidden signal button.

B. Grand River 35 MPH Signal

The Traffic and Safety Board confirmed there is no posted 35 mph sign on

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD MINUTES

March 19, 2009

Page 3

westbound Grand River between Hawthorne and Power Road. Director Nebus stated cars turning onto westbound Grand River from Orchard Lake Road or Nine Mile currently do not see or pass a speed limit sign until Power Road. Mr. Allyn stated the speed limit signs are normally posted one-half (1/2) mile apart. He believes a westbound 35 mph sign is missing near Valley View Condominiums since there is an eastbound 35 mph sign posted on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Allyn will contact MDOT and request they review and repost the missing sign. Chairperson Reynolds stated the Traffic and Safety Board may review the subject later if more signage is needed. Several board members thought the sign(s) may not have been re-installed after the completion of the bridge and Grand River construction project.

C. Two (2) Hour Downtown Parking

Director Nebus stated City Manager Pastue recognizes two (2) hour parking is not a safety concern, but he hoped the traffic board could offer an opinion about adding another area of restricted two (2) hour parking. The area to consider is the parking spaces behind Luigi's restaurant to Farmington Florist. The director shared that adjacent businesses are particularly impacted during Farmer's Market Saturdays when area employees or individuals sharing rides are leaving their cars for the entire day. The board agreed to review the area and discuss again at the April meeting. Chairperson Reynolds suggested the posting could be expensive because there are no poles to attach the signs.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairperson Reynolds and the entire Traffic and Safety Board thanked Mr. Allyn for filling in for Mr. DeCorte during the winter.

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Leppanen, seconded by Mr. McGowan to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Nebus
Public Safety Director

Attachments: Diagram of Shiawassee and Farmington (Mr. Tavolacci)
Farmington and Freedom Pole Signal Estimate (Mr. Allyn)
Alta Loma Pedestrian Button Estimate (Mr. Allyn)