

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, August 20, 2013

PLACE: Council Chambers

PRESENT:	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Andrew Hirsch
	Chris Leroux	Eric Chin	Jim Knapp
	Karen O'Farrell	Larry Wood	Kumares Sinha
	Larry Preo	Boudewijn van Gelder	

VISITORS:	Ben Anderson	Kristi Smith	Dan Teder
	Jan Myers	Clem Kuns	Stephen Bus
	Mary Cook	Greg Ehresman	Kevin Camp

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum.

Mr. Hirsch made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Preo seconded the motion. Ms. Burch requested a change to the minutes under Public Comment from the last meeting. The minutes should have stated the bicycle ordinance was heard recently at the West Lafayette City Council and not the Lafayette City Council. With that clarification, the minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dodge Street Loading Dock at 720 Northwestern: Present today to discuss the loading dock at 720 Northwestern are Dan Teder with Reiling, Teder & Schrier, Stephen Bus with Campus Acquisitions, and Clem Kuns with T-Bird Design Services.

Mr. Teder is presenting more information on Option B that was discussed at the last Traffic Commission meeting. With this option, traffic would exit the loading dock on to Dodge Street and go west toward Northwestern Avenue instead of east into the residential area. Mr. Teder referred to a map of the area showing the two parking spaces that would be eliminated on the south side of Dodge Street and the seven parking spaces that would be eliminated on the north side of Dodge. He stated even with the parking spaces being taken away on Dodge Street, the overall net gain would be eleven parking spaces.

Chairman Sinha asked Mr. Buck if he thought the width of the street in Option B would work. Mr. Buck stated that he thought it would work based on the information from tonight's meeting. Further, Mr. Buck stated this would be based on the existing profile and drainage of the curb line to the north, and what improvements will be needed when the crown of the road shifts, if it shifts at all. The back of the angled parking spaces along the edge of the street will serve as a gutter line and the drainage will now run along that, which will be in a different location than it is today, so the sidewalk could be wider.

Mr. Buck also stated signs will need to be posted indicating truck traffic should exit onto Northwestern Avenue and not to the east into the neighborhood.

Jan Myers wanted to know how many ADA accessible parking spaces will be designated at the 720 Northwestern site once completed. Mr. Buck stated there is at least one public parking space on each side of block.

Ms. Burch made a motion to approve, in principle, Option B. Professor van Gelder seconded the motion. Chairman Sinha announced the motion as approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

State Street Task Force: Chairman Sinha has recommended the commission choose two representatives to represent the Traffic Commission on the State Street Task Force. He has recommended Carrie Ehresman and Vicki Burch. Ms. O'Farrell made a motion to recommend Ms. Ehresman and Ms. Burch. Mr. Preo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Fourth and Russell Streets: Mr. Knapp stated Purdue was working on a design to improve bike and pedestrian traffic along Fourth and Russell Streets. Bids will soon be accepted for a bike and pedestrian corridor that will stretch from Jischke Drive to Russell Street. This corridor is expected to be open sometime next fall.

Mr. Knapp stated there are plans to build a pedestrian way just south of Wiley Food Court over to Russell Street. The object is to improve the pedestrian and bicycle circulation in the area. Purdue's plan, as you get closer to Fourth Street, is to split the bicycles off from the pedestrians, and line the pedestrians up with the crosswalk on the south side of Fourth Street.

Mr. Buck went on to explain the plan for the Fourth Street crosswalks. Currently, there is a piano key style pedestrian crosswalk across the north side of the intersection, but after talking with Purdue and their designer, and with the location of their proposed pedestrian facility, it appears the more prominent crosswalk would be the one on the south side of the intersection.

The City recommended that Purdue downgrade the piano key style crosswalk that they put in and install two 4-inch lines, then put piano key markings along the south crosswalk. This design matches what the City installed at the Mid-Block Crossings project at First and University Streets.

Chairman Sinha wanted to know if the crosswalks in this intersection could be raised crosswalks to identify that it is a pedestrian crosswalk. Mr. Knapp said there were certainly opportunities to have that happen.

Mary Cook commented that she would like to see stricter laws enforced when it came to texting and walking with earphones while walking in a crosswalk. Mr. Knapp said safety is certainly addressed at Boiler Gold Rush in an effort to educate pedestrians and drivers of potential hazards.

Jan Myers commented that she was almost hit in her wheelchair recently because the pedestrian walking in the crosswalk was on the phone and not paying attention to what was in front her.

Pawnee Drive Speed Limits: Mr. Buck stated his office is currently working on speed counts on Pawnee Drive. That information should be available next week.

Chairman Sinha wanted to publically commend the city for doing a great job in so many areas in the city. The construction has gone very well with only a few inconveniences.

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 17, 2013, Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D.M. Buck". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

DMB/ks