

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

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 15, 2016

PLACE: West Lafayette Public Library / Elm Room

PRESENT:

Dave Buck	Lauren Bruce	Kathleen Mills
Troy Harris	Jim Knapp	Andrew Hirsch
Ralph Bline	Kumares Sinha	Larry Preo
Doug Payne	Carrie Ehresman	Bob Troyer
Thomas Schawartzel		

VISITORS:

Erin Cooper	Ed Garrison	A.L. Sweet
Gail Melson	Bob Melson	Steve Dietrich
Chris Kulesza		

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order at 5:00pm and determined there was a quorum.

Mr. Hirsch made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting. Mr. Troyer seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bob Melson who lives at 152 Thornbush Drive came before the commission to discuss the volume of semi-trucks on Happy Hollow Road. Mr. Melson requested that the city put up signage encouraging non-local semis to take alternate routes to avoid Happy Hollow Road.

Ms. Melson stated that when large semi-trucks drive down Happy Hollow Road, their house shakes, and over time has caused the foundation of the house to crack.

Mr. Steve Dietrich who lives at 1002 Happy Hollow Road was present and stated that since the area has recently developed more, there are many more children who live in the area. Mr. Dietrich also stated that most of the trucks appear to take a right at the bottom of Happy

Hollow Road, suggesting that they are trying to get to 231 and do not realize that now that there is now a route bypassing the city entirely.

Mr. Ed Garrison with the city engineer's office provided copies of the city ordinance as well as truck detour routes that other communities have set up and discussed the possibilities for amending city ordinance.

Mr. Buck stated that the city council is in the beginning phases of updating the entire city ordinance, and that the next couple of months would be a great opportunity to update this part of the city ordinance.

Mr. Garrison stated that if you go on INDOT's website you can find past traffic counts that were conducted on Happy Hollow Road, and various other state highways.

Chairman Sinha stated that the commission would take a comprehensive look into the semi-truck situation and also work on updating the city ordinance, because freight trucks have to have a place to go and we should promote those routes.

Chris Kulesza who lives at 320 Palmer Drive came before the commission to discuss the speed limit on Northwestern Avenue between Cherry Lane and Lindberg Avenue. Mr. Kulesza suggested that the speed limit could be raised to 35mph.

Mr. Buck stated that Northwestern Avenue was previously a state owned highway and since it has been transferred to the city, speed studies have been conducted and the city felt it necessary to lower the speed limit to 30mph. Mr. Buck said that the city would revisit this and see if any changes were warranted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Sinha asked how the road construction at State Street and River Road would affect businesses in the area.

Ms. Ehresman stated that she had been assured by the city that State Street and River Road would continue to stay open during construction, only to find out that the intersection would be closed.

Mr. Buck explained that there are currently two city projects in the same area and that citizens/business owners might be getting the two projects confused. Mr. Buck went on to explain that the State Street Redevelopment Project (www.statestreetwl.com) is the project

where the intersection of State Street and River Road will not need to close. The project that the intersection would need to be closed for was the CSO project (www.riverroadwl.com).

Mr. Buck stated that if they had kept the intersection open, the project would have cost approximately \$3 million more and would lengthen the duration of the project and disruption to traffic.

Ms. Ehresman asked what the current traffic count on State Street is from River Road to Airport Road to which Mr. Buck responded that you can find traffic count information on the State Street website (www.statestreetwl.com) in the synthesis report.

Ms. Ehresman expressed her concern with the CSO project affecting local businesses.

Mr. Buck explained that initially this project was scheduled for 2019, but as the State Street Project moved forward it was decided that the CSO project would need to happen before the State Street project, therefor the CSO project was moved up.

Mr. Greg Ehresman who owns the Triple XXX Family Restaurant came before the commission and stated that he felt disrespected by the city in that there was little to no warning of the CSO project.

Chairman Sinha suggested that in the future, maybe the city should try to get the local business owners involved earlier in the planning process but commended the city for aggressive schedule with the CSO project so that the local businesses do not suffer.

With no other business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

2016 MEETING INFORMATION:

- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, May 17, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Elm Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 19, 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September, 20 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November, 15 2016, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

DMB/ec