

ACTION ITEMS AND MINUTES
PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, July 9, 2015
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Action Items requiring an immediate ordinance during the next Council meeting: none
Temporary Action Items requiring an ordinance during the annual omnibus: none

ACTIONS:

- [1] Accepted and placed on file the minutes of the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting held June 11, 2015.
- [2 (V.A.)] **Action Item:** Request for crosswalk, parking spaces, bike corral on Islington Street at White Heron – **VOTED** to have staff report back at next meeting.
- [3 (V.C.)] **Action Item:** Request for crosswalk on Hanover Street at Fleet Street –**VOTED** to approve construction of a crosswalk on Hanover Street and Fleet Street once funding is available for the required wheelchair ramps.
- [4 (V.D.)] **Action Item:** Request for crosswalk on South Street at Broad Street – **On a roll call 5-4, motion failed.**
- [5 (V.E.)] **Action Item:** Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Middle, Miller, and Summer – **VOTED 5-4, motion passed.**
- [6 (V.F.)] **Action Item:** Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Congress and Maplewood – **VOTED 6-3, motion failed.**
- [7 (V.G.)] **Action Item:** Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and Congress – **VOTED 6-3, motion passed** to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED sign at Fleet and Congress contingent on traffic signal equipment upgrade to concurrent phasing.
- [8 (V.H.)] **Action Item:** Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and State – **On a roll call 5-4, motion failed.**
- [9 (VI.A.)] **Action Item:** Request for crosswalk on Marcy Street at Humphrey's Court – **VOTED** to accept staff recommendations of posting two Pedestrian Warning signs on Marcy Street approaching Humphrey's Court and conducting a comprehensive analysis of the corridor.
- [10 (VI.B.)] **Action Item:** Request to improve safety of existing crosswalk on Middle Street at Richards Ave and Austin Street – **VOTED** to accept staff recommendations of new Pedestrian Warning signs, review of colored pavement markings, and review of crossing guard needs for the upcoming school year at the crosswalk on Middle Street at Richards Ave and Austin Street.
- [11 (VI.C.)] **Action Item:** Request for crosswalk on Woodbury Ave at Cottage Street – **VOTED** to accept staff recommendation to construct a crosswalk with the required wheelchair ramps at each end, when the funding becomes available in the Department of Public Works.
- [12 (VI.D.)] **Action Item:** Crosswalk bump-outs near Sanders Market on Marcy Street – **VOTED** to accept staff recommendation to look at a crosswalk as part of a Marcy Street Corridor Study.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lown called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor, Brad Lown
City Manager, John Bohenko
Public Works Director, Peter Rice
Deputy Fire Chief, James Heinz
Captain, Frank Warchol, Police Department
Member, Harold Whitehouse
Member, Ted Gray
Member, Shari Donnermeyer
Member, Ronald Cypher
Alternate Member, Mary Lou McElwain
Parking and Transportation Engineer, Eric Eby

Staff Advisors Present:

Parking Manager, Joey Giordano
Transportation Planner, Juliet Walker

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Harold Whitehouse motioned to accept June 11, 2015 meeting minutes. Ron Cypher seconded. Moved to accept PTS Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2015.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

No Financial Report for June 2015.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Request for crosswalk, parking spaces, bike corral on Islington Street at White Heron – Harold Whitehouse explained that this location was one of the on-site visits on Tuesday, July 7th. Eric Eby, Parking and Transportation Engineer, provided a detailed explanation of the difficulties and challenges of creating a crosswalk and parking spaces in the area. Public Works Director Rice stated that the City is beginning a corridor design to reconfigure the area and these issues would be addressed.

Harold Whitehouse motioned to have staff report back on crosswalk alternatives at the August meeting. Public Works Director Rice seconded. **Vote 9-0, to have staff report back at August meeting on crosswalk alternatives on Islington Street at White Heron.**

B. Request for safety measures along Elwyn Road – Eric Eby stated a homeowner on Elwyn Road is concerned about a number of accidents due to curvy roadway and speeding. Eric Eby recommended landscape maintenance of the area so all signs are visible. Signs should be replaced if needed. Police Captain Warchol stated that speed patrols will be increased on roadway, and a speed sign will be placed in the residential area.

Public Works Director Rice stated it is an operational issue and is being addressed by the department.

No action item.

C. Request for crosswalk on Hanover Street at Fleet Street – Eric Eby and several committee members reviewed this location at an on-site visit on Tuesday, July 7th. He stated that it is a good location for a potential crosswalk. A wheel chair ramp would need to be added and one parking space relocated to provide adequate sight lines for pedestrians crossing.

City Manager Bohenko motioned that once funding is made available to proceed with a handicap accessible crosswalk as presented by Eric Eby. Public Works Director Rice seconded.

Ted Gray expressed concerns over the number of crosswalks in the city, and non-compliance of pedestrians. He will vote in opposition of this item.

City Manager Bohenko expressed interest in increasing compliance by using design and/or color in crosswalk areas and conducting a pilot study. Police Captain Warchol stated that the police department currently has a grant, funding pedestrian controls. The crosswalks aide in pedestrian control. Mary Lou McElwain commented on creating variations in crosswalks based on volume of traffic.

Vote 8-1, to approve construction of a crosswalk on Hanover Street at Fleet Street once funding is available for the required wheelchair ramps. Ted Gray opposing.

D. Request for crosswalk on South Street at Broad Street – Eric Eby and several committee members reviewed this location at an on-site visit on Tuesday, July 7th. Eric Eby stated there is an existing signalized crosswalk at South/Miller/Sagamore. It is 240 feet from the South and Broad location. Eric Eby expressed concerns about traffic in the intersection at South and Broad when the signal is utilized at South/Miller/Sagamore. Pedestrians walk in-between the traffic on South. It is a standard not to have crosswalks within 300 feet of each other. Eric Eby stated that pedestrian warning signs could be installed as an alternative.

City Manager Bohenko expressed concern over a crosswalk at this location due to an established route for children walking to school. This includes a crossing guard. Deviating from the established route may affect the safety of the children.

Ron Cypher expressed concern over the overgrowth of a hedge that is blocking sight lines. He requested that a letter be sent to the property owner. Chairman Lown agreed and Public Works Director Rice stated that the property owner would be contacted.

City Manager Bohenko motioned to approve the crosswalk on South Street at Broad Street for discussion purposes. Public Works Director Rice seconded.

Chairman Lown supports a crosswalk at this location. Eric Eby stated that an engineering design would be required to determine the feasibility of a tip-down wheel chair ramp. Deputy Fire Chief Heinz asked if width of street would be effected. Eric Eby stated street width would not be changed.

Public Works Director Rice is in agreement with Eric Eby and City Manager Bohenko regarding crosswalk concerns at this location and opposes the motion.

On a roll call 5-4, motion failed.

Shari Donnermeyer, City Manager Bohenko, Public Works Director Rice, Police Captain Warchol, Deputy Fire Chief Heinz, voted opposed. Chairman Lown, Ted Gray, Harold Whitehouse, and Ron Cypher, voted in favor.

E. Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Middle, Miller, and Summer – Chairman Lown stated he was contacted by David Mulhern regarding the issue.

Harold Whitehouse expressed concern over safety at Summer and Middle if the sign was removed. He expressed concern over objects that block the view of pedestrians, and their safety if cars were allowed to turn on red.

Eric Eby provided explanation for Right on Red signage. By default, right turns on red are allowed at intersections, unless precluded by signage. Some reasons for signage are sight lines, geometrics and pedestrian phasing. Each intersection would be reviewed on a case by case basis to analyze factors for signage.

City Manager Bohenko motioned to suspend the rules to allow for public comment. Shari Donnermeyer seconded. **Vote 9-0, to suspend the rules.**

David Mulhern, 60 Pinehurst Road, presented the NO RIGHT ON RED signs removal matter to the committee. He provided a detailed explanation on why he believes the signs should be removed. He believes that removing them could be a modest step toward continuing a safe flow of traffic.

Harold Whitehouse motioned to combine all four NO RIGHT ON RED items and vote as one item. Ted Gray seconded.

On a roll call 7-2, motion failed to combine all four NO RIGHT ON RED items and vote as one item.

Chairman Lown, Shari Donnermeyer, Ron Cypher, City Manager Bohenko, Public Works Director Rice, Police Captain Warchol, Deputy Fire Chief Heinz, voted opposed. Ted Gray, Harold Whitehouse, voted in favor.

Shari Donnermeyer motioned to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Middle, Miller, and Summer. Public Works Director Rice seconded for discussion purposes.

Public Works Director Rice stated that the equipment at an intersection dictates signage. Due to the equipment at this intersection, he opposes making any changes. A change would also be in conflict with MUTCD, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, recommendations and design codes.

Eric Eby clarified that the push button signal at this location stops all traffic for pedestrian crossing. The recommendation is no turn on red at that time for pedestrian safety. Harold Whitehouse reiterated his concerns about sight line issues at the location.

Ted Gray favors removing the sign because he believes it is ineffective. Chairman Lown supports removing the signs and agrees with David Mulhern's views. He believes it is an enforcement issue and supports a yield to pedestrian sign.

Vote 5-4, motion passed to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Middle, Miller, and Summer. City Manager Bohenko and Public Works Director Rice, voted opposed.

F. Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Congress and Maplewood -

Ron Cypher opposes removing signage on Congress and Maplewood because of high pedestrian traffic in area.

Mary Lou McElwain sought clarification on the redesign of no turn on red light at Islington and Middle. Public Works Director Rice confirmed that it would remain intact.

Harold Whitehouse believes there is a study to make Congress a two-way street, but Public Works Director Rice clarified: there is no study. Rice stated there was a recommendation to put it into the Capital Improvements Plan for consideration by the City Council.

Public Works Director Rice motioned to consider removing the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Congress and Maplewood. Shari Donnermeyer seconded. Both will oppose the motion.

Chairman Lown supports the motion to remove the sign because of the inconsistencies as presented by David Mulhern.

Eric Eby clarified: there is a conflict at the intersection due to the simultaneous left turns on Islington and Congress. The right turn on red will conflict with the exclusive left turns.

Vote 6-3, motion failed to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Congress and Maplewood.

G. Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and Congress –

Shari Donnermeyer motioned to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and Congress. City Manager Bohenko seconded for discussion purposes.

Public Works Director Rice stated that before the signage could be removed, the traffic lights must be upgraded. They do not have the control system to comply with the requirements of a concurrent

signal. He recommended the motion be modified to include the provision for the upgrade of the traffic lights. Eric Eby stated that concurrent phasing needs to be implemented.

Shari Donnermeyer amended the motion to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and Congress contingent on the traffic light upgrade to concurrent phasing.

Vote 6-3, motion passed to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED sign at Fleet and Congress contingent on traffic signal equipment upgrade to concurrent phasing. City Manager Bohenko, Public Works Director Rice, and Deputy Fire Chief Heinz, voted opposed.

H. Request to remove NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and State –

Shari Donnermeyer motioned to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and State. Ron Cypher seconded.

Shari Donnermeyer amended the motion to remove the NO RIGHT ON RED signs at Fleet and State contingent on equipment upgrade. Harold Whitehouse seconded.

Harold Whitehouse opposed due to sight lines.

On a roll call 5-4, motion failed.

City Manager Bohenko, Public Works Director Rice, Harold Whitehouse, Police Captain Warchol, Deputy Fire Chief Heinz, voted opposed. Chairman Lown, Shari Donnermeyer, Ron Cypher, Ted Gray, voted in favor.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Request for crosswalk on Marcy Street at Humphrey's Court – Eric Eby measured the street between the parked cars. It is 19 feet wide, which is narrow. The street curve limits the sight lines. There is only 100 feet of sight distance, which isn't sufficient for the observed or posted speed limits. A crosswalk is not recommended at this site. As an alternative, Eric Eby is recommending posting two (2) Pedestrian Crossing Warning signs on Marcy Street, one in each direction approaching Humphrey's Court. Additionally, he is recommending that the City conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Marcy Street/New Castle Avenue corridor, between Sanders Market and the New Castle Bridge.

Ted Gray motioned to accept staff recommendations. Harold Whitehouse seconded.

Vote 9-0, unanimous to accept staff recommendations of posting two Pedestrian Warning signs on Marcy Street approaching Humphrey's Court and conducting a comprehensive analysis of the corridor.

B. Request to improve safety of existing crosswalk on Middle Street at Richards Ave and Austin Street – Eric Eby conducted a field review of the intersection and recommends new Pedestrian Crossing warning signs that meet current standards. Staff will review the possibility of applying color paint to the pavement between the white stripes of the crosswalks to make markings

more visible. Possible acceptable colors include red, rust, brown, burgundy, tan, clay or similar earth tone equivalents. Additionally, staff will review the need for a crossing guard for the coming school year based on factors including bus routes, school population, and walking routes. Buses will exit from Parrott Avenue onto Junkins Avenue.

Police Captain Warchol asked if the color of paint at crosswalk could match the fluorescent color of the sign. Eric Eby stated that studies have shown no improved safety, and Federal Highway Department is not allowing this color scheme. They are approving the earth tone shades or black.

Deputy Fire Chief Heinz asked if street width would be affected. Eric Eby stated street width would not be changed at this time. He reminded the committee that this corridor is part of the bike lane corridor study currently underway. There will be recommendations from the study that staff may not be aware of at this time.

Harold Whitehouse motioned to accept staff recommendations.

Shari Donnermeyer seconded.

Vote 9-0, unanimous to accept staff recommendations of new Pedestrian Warning signs, review of colored pavement markings, and review of crossing guard needs for the upcoming school year at the crosswalk on Middle Street at Richards Ave and Austin Street.

C. Request for crosswalk on Woodbury Ave at Cottage Street – Eric Eby conducted a field review of the area. He recommends that a crosswalk be installed, along with the required wheelchair ramps at each end, when funding becomes available in the budget.

Ted Gray motioned to accept staff recommendation.

Ron Cypher seconded.

Vote 9-0, unanimous to accept staff recommendation to construct a crosswalk with the required wheelchair ramps at each end, when funding becomes available in the Department of Public Works.

D. Crosswalk bump-outs near Sanders Market on Marcy Street - Eric Eby conducted a field review of the area. He determined that the construction of bump-outs would cause the loss of three parking spaces and require extensive drainage system reconstruction to accommodate the change in stormwater patterns from the presence of the bump-outs.

They would also cause problems for snow removal. Additionally, parking spaces would likely be lost in the winter. Also, the construction costs associated with the drainage system would be extensive. Staff recommends the bump-outs not be constructed, and that the pedestrian crossing be reexamined as part of a larger corridor study. Staff is in the process of putting together the project scope.

Mary Lou McElwain stated that she believes the bump-outs are more dangerous for cyclists and the recently installed Pedestrian Crossing sign is an added safety improvement in the area.

Harold Whitehouse motioned to accept staff recommendation.

Ron Cypher seconded.

Vote 9-0, unanimous to accept staff recommendation to look at a crosswalk as part of a Marcy Street Corridor Study.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Judy Miller, 77 Hanover Street, representing the Harbour Hill Condominium Association, requests that the crosswalk on Hanover Street at Fleet Street be reinstated or a temporary crosswalk be installed while waiting for the permanent one to be built. She provided a letter to the committee signed by the Harbour Hill Condominium Association President. The committee approved the construction of the crosswalk once funding is available in a vote of 8-1 earlier in the meeting.

Walter Hamilton, 47 Mariette Drive, asked about the signs on Banfield Road directing the traffic exiting Water Country. He believes the residents would be happier if the traffic was directed up Mirona Road to the traffic circle.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL:

A. New pay and display parking meters to replace single space parking meters – Joey Giordano, Parking Manager, presented options for the single space meters. Proposed changes are: installing smart single space meters in the “15 Minute” spaces; eliminate 110 old single space meters, and replace with 7 “pay and display” meters for an estimated cost of \$52,500. Harold Whitehouse asked about durability during severe cold weather. Joey Giordano confirms that weather is not an issue with the “pay and display” meters: they have heaters inside. However, there are technology limitations with the single space meters.

B. Diagonal parking suggestion from Rick Chellman – Eric Eby reviewed the Pleasant Street site in order to address the concerns of the Fire Department. The fire truck and outriggers were deployed to determine the width needed. The original proposal takes up more room than previously thought. Eric Eby is reconfiguring the design and looking at alternatives on Pleasant Street.

On Penhallow Street and Bow Street, the City can move forward on creating angle parking in the four spaces on the left side of Penhallow Street. This is done by re-stripping. Deputy Fire Chief Heinz agreed that this would be acceptable.

Harold Whitehouse commented on the horse and buggy location on Pleasant Street. Eric Eby mentioned that the agreement with the horse and buggy vendor is no longer in effect, having not been renewed for several years.

C. Proposed bicycle / scooter parking ordinance – Eric Eby states that staff continues to work on the ordinance.

Additional Items:

Resident only parking – Chairman Lown was requested by Councilor Morgan to address the status of the resident only parking matter. Public Works Director Rice stated that a program could be implemented when the new garage is constructed and operational.

Harold Whitehouse requested jaywalking in the Central Business District be addressed at the next committee meeting.

Eric Eby recommended a schedule change for the committee. Currently, the committee meets the second Thursday of each month. Staff recommends changing the schedule to dovetail with City Council so actions can be resolved more quickly. The committee agreed that the meeting date will change, beginning in September 2015. The committee will now meet on the first Thursday of each month and conduct site visits on the Tuesday prior to the meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - At 9:23 a.m., voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Chastain
Secretary to the Committee