



CITY OF WAUWATOSA  
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**TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog, Krol (7:50 p.m.), Maher, Purins -5

ALSO PRESENT: W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; Lt. G. Witkowski, Police

Ald. Becker as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Request for No Trucking and Speed Limit Signs on Martha Washington Drive**

Mr. Kappel reported that he received a request from the president of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association for additional no trucking signage and speed limit signs on Martha Washington Drive between Milwaukee Avenue and Martin Drive. He recommended installing no trucking signs that denote a 6,000 lb. weight limitation on the southeast and southwest corners of Milwaukee Avenue and Martha Washington Drive. Per the standards contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, signs could not be installed on the boulevard south of Milwaukee Avenue where they would be beyond the point of warning trucks not to enter the street. Mr. Kappel said that city policy is not to post speed limit signs on neighborhood streets with a normal 25 mph speed limit. The city does not have the resources to install and maintain the many signs that would probably be requested.

Patty Vaughn, 1287 Martha Washington Drive, spoke of high speeds on the street at any time of the day or night. She mentioned speed bumps as a possible deterrent. Mr. Kappel said that speed limit signs generally do not stop drivers from speeding; more enforcement is probably what is needed here. Speed bumps are a winter maintenance issue and also present problems for emergency vehicles, particularly fire trucks. The curve and the 20 ft. width of each side of the roadway actually serve to calm traffic to a greater extent than on straight roads.

(Ald. Krol present. -5)

John Huwler, 1279 Martha Washington Drive, said he has trouble backing out of his driveway because of speeding cars that suddenly come into view. Some drivers don't even attempt to stop for the stop sign at Martin Drive. Police came out with radar a couple of years ago, but he complained that they placed it in what he felt was the wrong location and didn't ticket cars that were going 35 mph.

Sally Champine, 1354 Martha Washington Drive, president of the neighborhood association, said that the proposed new no trucking signs would help but she was concerned about their visibility. She then spoke of concerns in connection with future development on State Street and noted that there are many children on this street since there is a day care facility on the north end and Hawthorne Glen nature center to the south. She felt that "Slow Children" signs would be appropriate here. Also, the City of Milwaukee public works facility to the south generates a lot of truck traffic that travels at speeds over the 25 mph limit. These are pickup trucks with extended beds that carry yard and garden equipment and also some dump trucks.

Mr. Kappel indicated that the new no trucking signs would be positioned for eastbound and westbound traffic on Milwaukee Avenue and would probably be about 18" by 36". He said that is likely that the City of Milwaukee

trucks are under the 6,000 lb. limit. He indicated that he will talk to a City of Milwaukee representative about that and the issue of speeding. He said that it is the city's policy not to install "Slow Children" or "Caution Children" signs. This is another sign that would be requested on every single residential street, of which this street is typical, and it is ineffective since drivers do not observe the signs.

Elizabeth Waterfall, 1249 Martha Washington Drive, responded that this isn't a typical street. She described the presence of children from the neighborhood and the day care and said that the policy on signs should be changed so that children are safe.

Lt. Witkowski was present at this point to respond to the earlier questions of speeding and the use of radar. He indicated that officers might find people going 30-35 mph in a 25 mph zone and use discretion in ticketing. Not every car going through a residential area is found to be doing 35 mph. He confirmed that residents could call the police department to request radar monitoring.

Ald. Purins asked if it would be possible to erect a no left turn sign for trucks greater than 6,000 lbs. He suggested signs on 62nd Street and on State Street to discourage truck drivers before they get to Martha Washington Drive. Mr. Kappel was uncertain if a weight limitation could be put on a no left turn sign but indicated he would investigate that question. He noted that there already is no trucking on Milwaukee Avenue. There may be an abnormal amount of traffic in this area because of the reconstruction of Hawley Road. He will confer with the Milwaukee public works director to see if there are other routes their vehicles can use.

Ald. Maher asked about criteria for placement of signs regarding children. Mr. Kappel said that signs and cones are used in connection with school crossings. There has been more success with the use of the temporary signs that the police department makes available than with permanent signs, which drivers tend to ignore.

Ald. Krol commented that there was very little impact when the speed limit in his neighborhood of Milwaukee Avenue west of Underwood Avenue was changed from 30 to 25 mph. He felt that some strategically placed "Caution Children" signs may be appropriate in this area. Ald. Maher said that such signage would probably catch drivers' attention in the short term but would ultimately be just like speed limit signs as to effectiveness.

Moved by Ald. Krol, seconded by Ald. Maher to recommend the installation of "Caution Children" signs at each end of Martha Washington Drive between Martin Drive and Milwaukee Avenue and the installation of "No Trucking" signs with a 6,000 lb. weight limitation –

Mr. Kappel confirmed that a 90-day trial is not required for this type of signage that does not require an ordinance change.

Ald. Krol recommended that the neighborhood association contact the police department about the availability of temporary signs. To be most effective, he recommended using them for a short period of time, removing them, and then reinstalling them.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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