



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, November 28, 2006

PRESENT: Alds. Donegan, Grimm, Herzog, Sullivan, Treis -5

ALSO PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Ald. Didier

Ald. Sullivan as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Participation in Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Program

Mr. Kappel reported on a proposal to participate in the Wisconsin Safe Routes to School program, a federal initiative that provides an allocation to each state for non-infrastructure-related activities aimed at encouraging walking and biking to school. The program's elements of education, engineering, enforcement, evaluation, and encouragement include such things as awareness campaigns and outreach to the press and community leaders, traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools, and student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Mr. Kappel said that he has been working with Ald. Didier on a number of issues related to the safety of children on their way to school. He noted that they met with the mayor, police and health department representatives, the community development director, and a representative of a private consulting firm that may or may not be involved, and he emphasized that the program includes more than just engineering and police involvement. He recommended implementing a trial in the 3rd and 4th aldermanic districts in the area of Jefferson Elementary School, 6927 Maple Terrace; Wilson Elementary School, 1060 Glenview Avenue; and St. Jude the Apostle School, 800 Glenview Avenue.

Ald. Didier said this is a great program that we might be able to support and utilize throughout the city. The suggested trial area represents a cross-section in that it includes both public and private schools that are close to each other and are ones to which students walk and bike. Blue Mound Road, Glenview Avenue, Wells Street, and 68th and 70th Streets are major arteries with consistently increasing traffic. This trial would help identify areas needing further enhancements to make getting to school safer. She noted that speed data being collected on Wisconsin Avenue in the area of Honey Creek Parkway will be compared with data collected when the previously approved speed detector sign is actually turned on. Following evaluation of the trial program, the city can apply for federal grant money to fund any infrastructure that might be needed.

Ald. Grimm commended the work done on this project and said that the best part is that it includes Blue Mound Road, 68th Street, and Glenview Avenue, which are three main streets that are heavily traveled.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Donegan to recommend to Council support of this effort in the 3rd and 4th aldermanic districts and to direct the appropriate departments to help advance the Safe Routes to

School Program in the city –

Mr. Kappel clarified that there is no fiscal expenditure attached at this time. Future grants for which the city could apply would be of a repayment type where the city would have to set money aside and then be reimbursed. If needed, that proposal would come before the appropriate committee.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

Creation of Tow-Away Zone Ordinance

Mr. Kappel reported on a proposal to establish a tow-away ordinance to address concerns about vehicles that park in front of an emergency access gate at the northeast corner of the Hart Park running track and football field, which could prevent emergency vehicles from accessing the field. He would limit application of the ordinance to this specific location at this time, but there may be other applications in the future, perhaps at sites such as the Wisconsin Lutheran College football field—although that is county property and may not be under our jurisdiction—or in front of police and fire emergency facilities or at the medical complex. The proposed ordinance specifies that towing and storage costs would be borne by the owner of the vehicle cited under the ordinance provisions.

Moved by Ald. Treis, seconded by Ald. Grimm to recommend to Council introduction of the proposed tow-away zone ordinance. Ayes: 5

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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