



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213
Telephone: (414) 479-8917
Fax: (414) 479-8989
<http://www.wauwatosa.net>

TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July 8, 2008

PRESENT: Aids. Jay, Maher, McBride, Meaux, Stepaniak -5

ALSO PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; J. Archambo, City Admin.; Ald. Purins, 7th Dist.

Ald. Meaux as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. -5

Handicapped Parking Zone on Wauwatosa Avenue

Mr. Kappel reported that St. Pius X Congregation has requested an on-street handicapped parking zone in front of their building at 2506 Wauwatosa Avenue to provide accessible parking for a new employee. That employee has a van with a ramp from which he could exit directly to the sidewalk, which is almost 10 feet wide at that point. Mr. Kappel recommended a 90-day trial of a handicapped parking zone immediately to the north of the bus stop, which would be almost directly in line with the office door. He noted that there is ordinance language for other handicapped parking zones elsewhere in the city, but that signage is no longer in place. He will address that situation in connection with any ordinance change recommended after the 90-day trial.

Neil Krumenauer, 2336 N. 65th Street, representing St. Pius X, said that the employee works 25-30 hours per week and finds it difficult to exit his van when that particular parking place is not available. Using the church's designated handicapped parking in the lot on the other side of the building would be difficult due to stairs and other obstacles.

Moved by Ald. Stepaniak, seconded by Ald. McBride to approve a 90-day trial of a handicapped parking zone at 2506 Wauwatosa Avenue –

Ald. Stepaniak indicated that he has been working with representatives of the congregation and believes this is a very reasonable request. There are some challenges to finding an acceptable or inexpensive alternative in terms of sidewalks, grades, and changes in elevation.

The Chair noted that use of this parking space would not be limited to one person. Anyone else qualified to use handicapped spaces could also park there.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

Pedestrian Crossing Signs on W. North Avenue

Mr. Kappel reported on his recommendation for a 90-day trial of pedestrian crossing signs to be mounted in the roadway in North Avenue crosswalks at N. 69th and N. 72nd Streets. He noted that similar signage was tried on State Street in the Village almost four years ago in an attempt to slow traffic. Those signs were

portable and were placed and removed by members of the Village Business Improvement District. The proposed North Avenue signs would be installed in the crosswalks on a semi-permanent basis. Similar signs are used in Elm Grove and at busy intersections in Milwaukee to remind drivers that pedestrians in a crosswalk have the right of way. The proposed trial installations would serve as a test to determine their applicability in other areas. Feedback would be sought through the local alderpersons and the neighborhood or business associations. Mr. Kappel explained that he proposed trials at these particular intersections, 69th and 72nd Streets, because each has a different configuration in terms of bump-outs and left turns and both have public parking lots at the corner.

Ald. Stepaniak reported that this request came to him from a newly organized group, the North Avenue Neighborhood Alliance. In a survey of nearby residents between 60th and 76th Streets, they received requests for measures to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety at crosswalks.

Moved by Ald. Stepaniak, seconded by Ald. McBride to approve a 90-day trial of pedestrian crossing signs on W. North Avenue at N. 69th and N. 72nd Streets –

Asked about any research on their use, Mr. Kappel reported that this type of signage will be included in the revised federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which becomes effective at the end of the year. The manual previously was silent on this subject, but there has been overwhelming demand across the nation for a means to make pedestrian crossings safer without incurring a lot of expense. Locally, the roll-out type signs were somewhat effective when used in the Village. It is hoped that this trial provides an opportunity to gather better information. The signs would probably be in place from early spring to late fall but would be removed in the winter to facilitate snow and ice control operations. The small roadway base that the standard fits into would be counter-sunk, and the standards and signs would be flexible enough that they would not cause any damage if struck.

The Chair asked that a letter be sent to the Village Business Improvement District to inform them of this trial and alert them that the city might pursue further installations. Mr. Kappel said that one of his concerns is making this somewhat easier to do; a mechanism for triggering installations should be determined. The signs cost approximately \$250 each and would need to be a budget item if there is more of a demand. Some minor asphalt repairs might be required in connection with each installation.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 5

Zoo Interchange Update

Mr. Kappel reported that at the second Zoo Interchange Technical Advisory Committee meeting, each member was asked to state a position. Speaking only for himself, he told them he is leaning in the direction of the Modernization alternatives as opposed to Spot Improvements or Replacement in Kind. Representatives of the Research Park and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center have indicated that they favor the M3 modernization option. Based on the comments, it appears that the Spot Improvement options, S1, S2, and S3, will fall away very shortly as alternatives continue to be revised. The next major step will occur when the West Suburban Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) is released, possibly by the end of July or early August, and issues involving local roads are identified. An ongoing series of meetings will be set up at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

es

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin