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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Committee Room #1

PRESENT: Aids. Jay, McBride, Pantuso, Wilke – 4

ALSO PRESENT: W. Porter, Public Works Dir.; P. Enders, Economic Dev. Dir.; J. Archambo, City Administrator; Ald. Hanson

Ald. McBride as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

WI DOT Presentation – Crosswalk Treatment at Glenview and Wisconsin Avenues

Mr. Porter reported that as part of the Zoo Interchange Reduced Impact Plan, the City asked the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) to seek ways to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Glenview Avenue and W. Wisconsin Avenue. Tim Anheuser and Jason Matson of Forward and Josh Leveque of WI DOT were present to update plans.

Mr. Anheuser reported that the intersection would have a 20-foot wide color concrete band surrounding an 8-foot striped crosswalk, a treatment similar to that proposed in other areas with high pedestrian traffic. It should improve visibility and work well with the new signal system that will provide a much safer turning environment. The bus stop will be maintained, although the existing bus shelter may be replaced. Plans should be completed within the next several months with bidding in early 2013.

Mr. Matson reported that the new traffic signal system will include mono-tubes vertically mounted over each lane with large 12-inch indicators. It will be an actuated system, i.e., demand-driven, and will include pedestrian push buttons and count-down pedestrian signals.

In response to questions, Mr. Anheuser indicated that the color is mixed into the concrete for durability; the color itself is still to be determined. The committee briefly discussed the pros and cons of red or green concrete. Mr. Porter will try to identify and report back on crosswalks in the area using various colors. There is no room for additional roadway width, so bikers would be sharing a lane.

Proposed 90-Day Trial – Parking Restrictions on Elm Lawn and on Watertown Plank Road

Mr. Porter reported on concerns that parking on the north side of Watertown Plank Road between Robertson Street and Elm Lawn prompts sudden lane changes for rush-hour traffic. In a separate request, staff also addressed concerns about daytime parking on Elm Lawn south of Watertown Plank Road that impedes emergency vehicle access and complicates turning movements onto Watertown Plank Road. To address these issues, he proposed prohibiting parking on Watertown Plank Road during weekday morning and evening rush hours and also instituting restrictions on the east side of Elm Lawn. He provided copies of e-mails and a summary of phone calls received over the past two weeks on the Elm Lawn proposal.

Residents John Lynch, 1173 Robertson Street; John Schoenconnek, 1173 Elm Lawn; Richard Brown, 1134 Elm Lawn, Laurie Lorenz, 1162 Elm Lawn; and Mike Fitzgerald, 1155 Elm Lawn, commented on the proposed restrictions. There was some objection to the proposed “No Stopping or Standing” language. It was noted that the daytime parking on Elm Lawn is by Medical College students and by Eddie Martini’s employees who would likely create the same issues on an adjacent street if restrictions were posted. Medical College students are assigned to park in specific areas but apparently use this street as a convenience although there seems to be adequate space in the nearby parking structure and surface lot. Some felt that two-hour restrictions or prohibiting parking on one side would not provide adequate parking for residents. Restrictions to provide clearance at the intersection were deemed acceptable.

Ald. Hanson proposed providing residents with parking stickers during a 90-day trial of the proposed restrictions.

The committee discussed the information and concluded that rush-hour restrictions on Watertown Plank Road and in the first 30-feet of Elm Lawn are warranted. They felt that the Medical College and Eddie Martini’s should work collaboratively to address the Elm Lawn parking concerns.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Jay to approve a 90-day trial of morning and evening rush-hour restrictions on the north side of Watertown Plank Road between Elm Lawn and Robertson Avenue and no parking on both sides of Elm Lawn in the first 30 feet south of Watertown Plank Road; and to direct staff to contact the Medical College and Eddie Martini’s in an effort to reach some sort of an accommodation, with a report back in 30 days. -4

Proposed Traffic Study in School Areas on W. Center Street and N. 100th Street; Request for Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies

Mr. Porter reported that he met with Dr. Phillip Ertl, Wauwatosa School District Superintendent, concerning pedestrian and vehicle safety concerns on W. Center Street in the area of Wauwatosa West High School, Eisenhower Elementary School, and Whitman Middle School. Similar concerns arose regarding motorist and pedestrian safety on N. 100th Street at Madison School. Upon review, it was determined that a study by a professional traffic engineering firm is warranted. A Request for Proposals yielded two responses. Staff believes the proposal by Ayers Associates, the low bidder at \$26,700, would be adequate to accomplish the goals of the study. The School District has pledged to pay one-half of the cost, the remainder to be funded from the Reserve for Contingencies. With the study commencing during the school year, recommendations would be available prior to next year’s budget decisions.

Committee members concurred with concerns regarding vehicular and pedestrian safety in the area of the schools.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Wilke to recommend approval of a traffic study by Ayers Associates in the amount of \$26,700, the low of two bids, with funding of one-half of the cost by the Wauwatosa School District and the remainder by transfer from the Reserve for Contingencies. -4

Proposed 90-Day Trial – Two-Hour Parking Restrictions at 11127 W. Blue Mound Road

Mr. Porter reported that the owners of the 911 Computer Center at 11127 W. Blue Mound Road are seeking some short-term parking along their Blue Mound Road frontage to assist customers dropping off equipment for repair. Staff determined that there is adequate lane width to allow for two-hour parking from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, which would yield two or three parking places.

Sally Heuer and Steve Culver, owners of 911 Computer Center, felt that two-hour parking would be a good solution. They displayed photos of current signage, which they believe is confusing. Mr. Porter indicated that there should be signage prohibiting parking near the intersection as well as new signage for the proposed two-hour zone.

Alds. Hanson and Jay commented that this business has been beneficial to this area of their district.

Moved by Ald. Jay, seconded by Ald. Pantuso to approve a 90-day trial of two-hour parking in front of 11127 W. Blue Mound Road. -4

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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