



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
Committee Room #1

PRESENT: Aids. Wilke, McBride, Moldenhauer, Pantuso, Roznowski – 5

ALSO PRESENT: A. Kesner, City Atty.; B. Porter, Public Works Director

Ald. Wilke as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Request for guidance regarding traffic calming public information meeting

The committee reviewed a memo from the Director of Public Works requesting input from the committee in regards to a public information letter that will be distributed to the residents in the traffic calming pilot program area on 103rd, 104th, and 106th Streets between Wisconsin Avenue and Blue Mound Road.

As previously reported, the traffic speeding problem on the above residential streets merits further action, preceded by an opportunity for public input. In the meantime the Department of Revenue approved of the City using a portion of the Public Works Traffic Mitigation funds for the purchase of portable speed tables for these streets that are affected by the Zoo Interchange project.

Mr. Porter explained that moving forward the City would like to have a public information meeting and are looking for guidance from the committee for parameters. If the committee makes a decision to move forward with the speed table purchase it will have to be bid out. In the meantime, Mr. Porter would like to have a public hearing regarding traffic calming in this area. He discussed the costs involved and asked whether the costs or portion of the costs should be assessed to the homeowners. Since the speed tables are being purchased with grant funds the cost of the tables cannot be passed on or assessed to the homeowner. However the cost to install could be.

Mr. Porter explained the draft letter to be sent to homeowners regarding the pilot program and the sample ballot requesting residents vote yes or no to have the City install a temporary speed table.

Discussion ensued regarding what percentage of returned ballots would constitute approval. It was also to be determined how many votes a business owner should have compared to a private citizen. Should every parcel have just one vote?

Clarence Jenkins, 515 N. 104th Street questioned how the balloting would work. He questioned whether it would be based on a percentage of ballots returned or based on the number of parcels in the area.

Ald. Walz-Chojnacki felt since this is a temporary pilot program the installation fee should be waived. The City should assume the cost of the program. Mr. Porter suggested a 26 foot speed table could take 15 – 18 man hours to install for approximately \$400. He felt 50% approval would be sufficient.

Neil Hardy, 507 N. 104th Street said that speeding on this street has been discussed numerous times. With the closing off of Wisconsin Avenue, more traffic will be diverted on 103rd and 104th Streets and it is imperative that this get installed to reduce the speed of drivers. He suggested one vote per property owner. There are two and four-unit complexes as well, but felt the property owner should be the one casting a vote. He also said he had no problem paying an installation charge for a temporary measure if it would slow down traffic.

Mr. Jenkins felt that 50% approval of all property owners was a lot to expect. He felt it was a pretty high expectation.

Ald. Moldenhauer explained that there is an installation and a de-installation charge and what would the de-installation charge be. Mr. Porter felt the de-installation cost would be about half or two-thirds of the installation cost. Mr. Porter said it could be two - four weeks for delivery time of the speed tables.

Ald. Pantuso stated that he is unclear as to why the City would have a ballot if there is no cost to the residents for the temporary installation of the speed table and suggested having a public information meeting. If we need to take into consideration that someone really has a problem with this project, then we could take the input and look for solutions. Ald. Walz-Chojnacki responded that he would like to complete the process from beginning to end informing the residents of the area. This is a hot topic and he feels that the public will respond. The process during the pilot project will set the precedent going forward for future projects that result from this pilot and can be altered if needed.

Ald. Roznowski asked if this cost was coming out of the DOT Mitigation Fund and what is the actual cost of the speed table. Mr. Porter responded that each 26 foot speed table costs approximately \$5,000. We will be installing five sets of portable speed tables so the entire cost will be approximately \$25,000.

Mr. Porter responded to Ald. McBride's question that the portable speed tables will last longer than one season and can be reused. Ald. McBride agreed that during a trial period, the residents should not be charged. The residents are aware of the speeding problem in their neighborhood and will show up for the informational meeting. Ald. McBride felt the alderpersons should deliver the notifications to the residents rather than mailing them out. He recommended that the ballot vote be a 50% majority for the temporary installation but a two-thirds majority for a permanent installation, because there will be costs to the residents for a permanent installation.

Ald. Wilke suggested those in attendance at the meeting decide since notice will be given to all the affected residents. For the permanent installation he felt the ballot process should happen.

Ald. McBride felt the meeting be informational but balloting separate from that. Not everyone might be available to attend the meeting for one reason or another.

Speed tables signs will be posted.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Pantuso
To recommend approval of a pilot program using
temporary speed tables at no cost to residents. Ballots
will be hand delivered, 50% of returned ballots will be
sufficient to approve – Ayes: 5

Request from Wisconsin Department of Public Works to temporarily eliminate on street parking on Wisconsin Avenue to facilitate the creation of a left turn lane

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director concerning temporary elimination of parking on the south side of Wisconsin Avenue from Bel Air Circle to 87th Street.

The Department of Transportation requested the temporary elimination of parking on Wisconsin Avenue for a dedicated turn lane until the work on Watertown Plank Road is completed in 2015. Give the expected increase in traffic using Wisconsin Avenue during Watertown Plank Road construction in 2014, it is prudent to take minor steps to improve traffic flow and reduce the accident possibility. Notices were passed out yesterday to the affected residents.

Paul Bartel and Chris Hager are present from DOT to answer any questions.

Chris Hager, Department of Transportation, clarified that the parking restriction would be extended east to Elm Spring Avenue. This would be done temporarily for the fall of 2013 through 2014 and would be removed at the end of Watertown Plank Road construction. He felt it would increase safety and mobility in this area.

A representative from the Wisconsin Lutheran College felt this makes sense on a temporary basis, although it does displace parking they are not opposed.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. McBride
to recommend approval of the temporary modification
eliminating of parking on the south side of Wisconsin Avenue
from Bel Air Circle to Elmspring Avenue – Ayes: 5

Mr. Porter explained that approval for this request will be made with a resolution to Council with timeframe parameters, since this goes beyond the committees 90 day trial permission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

mks/bg