



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Regular Meeting**Committee Room #1****7:00 PM**

7725 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
James Moldenhauer	Alderman	Present	
Jeffrey Roznowski	Alderman	Present	
Dennis McBride	Alderman	Present	7:01 PM
Bobby Pantuso	Alderman	Present	
Jason Wilke	Alderman	Present	
William Porter	Public Works Director	Present	
Anthony Brown	Asst. to Administrator	Present	
John Dubinski	Alderman	Present	

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

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE ITEMS

1. Memo from the Director of Public Works regarding 90-day trial of 25 mph speed limit on Ludington Avenue between Milwaukee Avenue and 88th Street north of North Avenue

The Committee reviewed a memo from the Director of Public Works regarding the 90-day trial of 25 mph speed limit on Ludington Avenue between Milwaukee Avenue and 88th Street north of North Avenue.

Mr. Porter explained that a 90-day trial was enacted on May 14, 2013 to reduce the speed limit on Ludington Avenue to 25mph between Milwaukee Avenue and 88th Street north of North Avenue. He noted that Staff have received no comments in favor or against the speed limit change.

Mr. Porter recommended making the change permanent and explained this change will create a consistent speed limit along this section of roadway.

Ald. Dubinski stated that he strongly supports this speed limit change and thanked the Committee for their support of pedestrian safety in this Wauwatosa neighborhood. He noted that this speed limit is more appropriate for this residential neighborhood.

Ald. Roznowski remarked that McKinley School is in this neighborhood and this change is in line with the Safe Routes to School Grant program. He thanked Ald. Dubinski for taking the lead on this item and noted that this speed limit change will help students travel safely to school.

Moved by Ald. Roznowski, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer
to recommend an ordinance amendment for
Council introduction regarding the speed limit
on Ludington Avenue Ayes: 5

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR INTRODUCTION [UNANIMOUS] Next: 9/17/2013 7:30 PM
TO:	Common Council
MOVER:	Jeffrey Roznowski, Alderman
SECONDER:	James Moldenhauer, Alderman
AYES:	Moldenhauer, Roznowski, McBride, Pantuso, Wilke

2. Memo from the Director of Public Works regarding 90-day trial of stop signs erected at the intersection of Eagle and 78th Streets

The Committee reviewed a memo from the Director of Public Works regarding the 90-day trial of stop signs erected at the intersection of Eagle and 78th Streets.

Mr. Porter explained that the Committee approved a 90-day trial to install a stop sign at this intersection after reviewing studies and traffic counts. He noted that Staff have heard no complaints regarding the stop sign installation at the intersection of Eagle and 78th Streets. He also noted that Staff have received some positive comments from area residents regarding the stop sign installation. He suggested that the Committee recommend an ordinance amendment for this stop sign installation.

Michael Hoelzer, 7732 Eagle Street, spoke in favor of the permanent installation of stop signs at the intersection of Eagle and 78th Streets.

Rich Robinson, 7813 Eagle Street, spoke in favor of the permanent installation of stop signs. He commented that traffic speed has reduced in the neighborhood since the installation and he strongly supports the permanent addition.

Ald. Pantuso stated that he has heard many positive resident comments after this stop sign installation. He expressed continued concern for this neighborhood and the increased traffic in the area. He noted that this area should remain a topic of discussion.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Roznowski to recommend approval to amend the Official Stop Sign Map to add stop signs at the intersection of Eagle and 78th Streets Ayes: 5

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS] Next: 9/17/2013 7:30 PM
TO:	Common Council
MOVER:	Bobby Pantuso, Alderman
SECONDER:	Jeffrey Roznowski, Alderman
AYES:	Moldenhauer, Roznowski, McBride, Pantuso, Wilke

3. Discussion of Crossing Guard Program and budgetary conditions

The Committee reviewed a memo from the Assistant to the City Administrator regarding the Crossing Guard Program and budgetary conditions.

Mr. Brown updated the Committee on the status of two intersections. He explained that the Principal of the school near the intersection of 91st and Center Streets resolved the crossing guard need with the City of Milwaukee. The City of Milwaukee has placed a crossing guard at that intersection. In addition, a parent

volunteer from the school near the intersection of Gridley Avenue and Glenview Avenue has started acting as a crossing guard. He noted that volunteers create a liability concern, but the volunteer currently fills the need for crossing assistance.

Mr. Brown explained that the larger issue is the continued rise of crossing guard costs. The crossing guard costs continue to rise due to hourly rate increases, but also due to the addition of new crossing guard locations. He explained that any new service consideration is an important budgetary discussion due to restrictive levy limits and budgetary constraints. He suggested that the Committee review the current crossing guard program.

Ald. Wilson noted that this issue is an important topic for pedestrian safety, but it also represents an overall budget issue. He explained that service questions such as this bring up the issue of levy limits and the City's ability to provide services. He noted that allowing Wauwatosa children to travel safely to school is important, but changes in services must be assessed against the budgetary limitations caused by levy limits.

Bridget Robinson, 7813 Eagle St, expressed concern for safe crossing for school children and asked if pedestrian activated lights would be an option instead of additional crossing guards.

Ald. McBride remarked that the City will soon face service-based budgetary arguments as different constituents value different services. He noted that Wauwatosa is facing a budgetary challenge, unlike any before, due to reduced federal aid, reduced state aid, and stricter levy limits, among other factors. He noted that City services across the board will be reviewed due to this budgetary challenge. For this reason, the crossing guard program should be reviewed. He observed that Janesville only provides crossing guards for elementary schools and he noted that Wauwatosa East High School may not need crossing guards near light-controlled intersections. He expressed interest in assessing the entire crossing guard program to ensure efficiency and verify service needs. He mentioned that volunteers are a possible asset to help alleviate the costs of the crossing guard program. He recognized the risk of volunteer liability, but noted that paying for insurance rather than salaries may be a lesser cost. He urged that the City must be creative and recognize which services are valued by Wauwatosa citizens. He noted that City staff have worked efficiently to reduce costs, but the current budgetary constraints require continued innovation.

Ald. Moldenhauer noted that Wauwatosa crossing guards are being paid beyond the average market rate in the area. He suggested that the City lower their rate to reflect the market.

Mr. Brown explained that the crossing guard program is a contract-based service. The City has limited control over crossing guard wages. He noted that a request for bid was posted and only one bid was received.

Ald. Moldenhauer remarked that a study regarding in-house crossing guard service could address the pay rate issue. He suggested that Staff review the possibility of in-house crossing guard service in order to address the high wage issue.

Ald. Roznowski also expressed concern regarding the high wages, but recognized the City's limited control over rates while under contract. He agreed with Ald. McBride and Ald. Wilson regarding budgetary challenges and the need to assess City services across the board. He explained that additional pedestrian sensor light crossings will be installed with the Safe Routes to School grant funds. He expressed confidence that the City can provide crossing guard services of equal quality at a lower price. He suggested a review of crossing guard shift length, a review of locations, and consideration of volunteers in lieu of paid crossing guards. He made a motion to recommend creation of an Ad Hoc Crossing Guard Committee to review the current program and investigate alternatives to reduce overall expenditures.

Ald. Pantuso inquired why the City presumed the responsibility of crossing guard service and requested that the Ad Hoc Committee review this as well. He noted that the Ad Hoc Committee should contact other municipalities to inquire on best practices and find out if their crossing guard services are provided in-house or by contract.

Mr. Brown said that crossing guard services in Wauwatosa have been contracted since 2001, but prior to that the program was administered by the Police Department.

Ald. McBride observed that the crossing guard service may be a City responsibility because the service covers both public and private schools.

Ald. Pantuso noted that the intersection of 76th Street and North Avenue should be reviewed. He agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee should explore reduction of shift length, in-house crossing guard services, and the option of volunteers, but he also noted that volunteers are hard to find. He mentioned the possibility of older students acting as crossing guards for younger students.

Ald. Roznowski noted that public school early release has significantly increased crossing guard costs. Private schools do not have early release, so the number of crossing guard hours greatly increases due to public school early release. He suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee work with the public schools regarding this issue.

Ald. Wilke agreed that early release has created additional costs for both parents and the City. He inquired if the Police Reserve was previously responsible for the crossing guard program and suggested that police involvement could be a topic for the Ad Hoc Committee. He noted that private schools are also receiving the service and should be part of the Ad Hoc Committee discussion.

Ald. Moldenhauer asked Mr. Brown to contact other municipalities to obtain best practices from other local entities.

Ald. McBride noted that the comparison chart provided by Mr. Brown indicates several policy considerations made by other municipalities. He noted that Oshkosh and Fon du Lac only provide crossing guard services to public schools. He said he welcomes an Ad Hoc Committee to review this service, and noted that similar reviews will occur in the future. He urged Wauwatosa residents and elected officials to prepare for the difficult budgetary and service decisions that will occur over the next five years.

Ald. Pantuso mentioned that West Allis is a possible partner for shared services. He noted that although they have more residents, West Allis has significantly fewer crossing guards. He suggested the Ad Hoc Committee review best practices and review the programs of other municipalities.

Ald. McBride noted that the City of Milwaukee is another possible shared service partner, but he observed that both West Allis and the City of Milwaukee pay higher crossing guard wages than Wauwatosa.

Ald. Wilke expressed concern for Wauwatosa's volunteer force. He urged that the volunteer population should not be taxed with the burden to create safe school routes.

Ald. McBride remarked that Wauwatosa has a very low level of volunteer participation. A community survey indicated that the same group of people donate their time for multiple volunteer opportunities. He proposed that the volunteer base should be expanded, so that active community volunteers are not overburdened.

Ald. Roznowski proposed a 90 day deadline for the Ad Hoc Committee report and offered to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee.

Moved by Ald. Roznowski, seconded by Ald. Pantuso to recommend the creation of an Ad Hoc Crossing Guard Program Committee that will investigate alternatives to reduce programs costs and report back to the Traffic and Safety Committee in 90 days - Ayes: 5

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey Roznowski, Alderman
SECONDER:	Bobby Pantuso, Alderman
AYES:	Moldenhauer, Roznowski, McBride, Pantuso, Wilke

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC, City Clerk