



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2013
Committee Room #1

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

ALSO PRESENT: B. Porter, Public Works Director; E. Miller-Carter, Asst. City Attorney

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

Final survey results regarding Hillside Lane parking request

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding the enactment of parking restrictions on one side of Hillside Lane to facilitate emergency and service vehicles access to area residents.

There have been extensive public hearings, previous balloting, and 45-day trials leading up to tonight's discussion. Since there appeared to be no resident consensus on which side of the street needs to be posted, and no overriding public safety concerns that would favor one side over the other, a final ballot was taken with the understanding that the results would be final.

The balloting has been conducted and the results are that by a vote of 16-12, parking will be prohibited on the south side of Hillside Lane.

Ald. McBride said he worked with Mr. Porter on the survey which was sent out stating the majority vote would rule. The majority vote was to prohibit parking on the south side of Hillside Lane and felt that the city should go with that final vote.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Roznowski to recommend adoption of an ordinance amending Section 11.32.080 of the City Code to create parking restrictions on the south side of Hillside Lane. Ayes: 5

90-day trial of No parking between driveways request on N. 68th Street near Colectivo Coffee, 6745 W. Wells Street and residence to the south

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding a 90-day trial of a No Parking between driveways request on N. 68th Street near Colectivo Coffee, 6745 W. Wells Street and residence to the south. Staff received a request to look at the parking situation at the above address. The resident expressed concern that visibility for cars pulling out of Colectivo's parking lot, as well as for the resident leaving their own driveway, is being blocked by cars parking in this spot.

Mr. Porter said that this issue came up right after Colectivo opened. Staff went out to investigate and it was determined necessary to take immediate action placing a no parking sign at this driveway location. He asked the committee to endorse his decision, and authorize a 90-day trial to see if the current signage rectifies the problem.

Louis Corrao, 6742 W. Wisconsin Ave., said the street parking on 68th Street is an accident waiting to happen. There is a lot of congestion on the block and he has concerns about parking in general. Customers pulling out of Colectivo have blocked vision as well as himself trying to pull out of his driveway.

Jerry Styberg, 6804 W. Wisconsin Ave., expressed the same concern for the west side of 68th street. There are problems trying to turn into their driveway as well as backing out. People are parking right up to the drive. He suggested it is a hazardous situation. He said traffic has increased tremendously since Colectivo opened, but also because people are looking for alternate routes with all the detours in the city. People are trying to drive in the parking lane on 68th Street which causes additional backups.

Ald. Wilke asked Mr. Porter if he could do a further study addressing concerns with the homeowners. Ald. McBride concurred that in due course a study should be done and would like to see a recommendation forthcoming.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Pantuso to approve a 90-day trial of a no parking between driveways near Colectivo Coffee, 6745 W. Wells Street and the residence to the south.

Ald. Roznowski noted that the Colectivo on North Avenue experienced similar parking challenges. He agreed that this needs to be looked at.

Vote on the motion – Ayes: 5

90-day trial of an on-street disabled parking space at 615 N. 79th Street

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director with a request for on-street disabled parking space at 615 N. 79th Street. Staff has been requested to post an on-street Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking place at the above address.

The family at 615 N. 79th Street has a child who is confined to a wheelchair. Their concern is that when the rampvan comes, the parking stall immediately in front of their home is blocked which makes load and unloading difficult, especially in the winter. Additionally the home adjacent to theirs will be undergoing renovations in the coming months, and there is concern that the workmen in the area, are unaware of this issue, will be blocking access for the rampvan.

Mary and Michael O'Donoghue, 615 N. 79th Street, were in attendance to support their request.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Pantuso to approve a 90-day trial of an on-street disabled parking space at 615 N. 79th Street – Ayes: 5

Stop signs request at the intersection of 78th and Wright Streets

The committee reviewed a memo from the Director of Public Works regarding a request for the installation of stop signs for east/west traffic on Wright Street as it crosses 78th Street. Currently there is a stop sign for southbound traffic on 78th Street as it approaches Wright Street. There is a T-intersection at Wright Street and 78th Street. The Wauwatosa Cemetery is directly south of Wright Street.

The request came from residents who felt that speed is excessive on Wright Street and with the hill by 78th Street there is a blind spot for drivers who may encounter a resident leaving their driveway or for pedestrians.

Mr. Porter explained that the criteria for adding stop signs per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards are based on traffic volume, accidents, or sight obstructions. Based on volume, the intersection does not come close to the criteria for adding stop signs. The Police Department reported no accidents in the past five years and visibility is standard for an intersection at the top of the hill. He said he drove the area several times and didn't feel there was a visibility issue to require the sign.

Pierce Cable, 7902 W. Wright St., explained that his house is located at the top of the hill and they have difficulty backing out of their driveway as cars come quickly over the hill. He expressed additional concerns due to a nearby school and there are a lot of dog walkers in this area. Mr. Cable said this is a four block stretch without any signage where cars can get moving pretty fast and then have to brake at the last second. He felt that statistics can say one thing but actuality is another. Mr. Cable said that his elderly neighbors were in support but unable to attend this meeting.

The committee discussed other options that may be possible in lieu of the stop sign. The speed tables were mentioned as a good area for a trial. It was questioned if other types of signage would be an option to get drivers' attention.

Ald. Pantuso commented that the hill visibility changes whether you're driving a coupe or SUV. Although statistics don't support a stop sign he asked the committee to consider a trial for 90-days. He said dependent upon the season there can be a lot of activity going on in the Longfellow School area.

Ald. Roznowski expressed concern as he travels this area often. He suggested that foot traffic in this area is also problematic. There are a lot of children that walk to school and play in this area with cars zipping around. He felt that drivers are looking for shortcuts in the city with all the construction going on. He would support a stop sign trial.

Ald. Moldenhauer while respecting the standards, didn't feel it would be problematic installing a stop sign for 90 days.

Ald. McBride expressed concern of a trial if the standards aren't met due to the volume of requests the city receives. Due to being on a hill and the possibility of a change in traffic he would support a trial. He was concerned that a trial would automatically become permanent and set a precedent for other requests.

Moved by Ald. Roznowski seconded by Ald. Pantuso
to approve a 90-day trial of a stop sign at the intersection
of 78th and Wright Streets.

Ald. Pantuso said it is imperative that we do these trials. He asked Mr. Pierce to come back after the 90-day trial and honestly let the committee know how the sign worked. Other options can be tried if the stop sign doesn't work out.

Ald. McBride felt that a stop sign could cause a false sense of security to pedestrians. He felt real evidence would have to be submitted showing this is necessary.

Vote on the motion – Ayes: 5

90-day trial of an on-street disabled parking space at 6514 Lloyd Street

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director with a request for on-street disabled parking space at 6514 Lloyd Street. Staff has been requested to post an on-street Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking place at the above address.

The family at 6514 Lloyd Street has a child who is confined to a wheelchair. Their concern is that unless the on street parking at their property is open when the rampvan comes, they are forced to load their child into the van while the van is in the center of Lloyd Street. This blocks traffic and is a safety concern for all parties.

Mr. Porter recommended that the area between their driveway and one half the distance to the next driveway be posted as an on street handicapped parking area per City Code Chapter 11.32.490.

Patty Mills, 6514 W. Lloyd Street, was present in support of her request. Ms. Mills said that it is more frequent that the bus has to maneuver around traffic and park right in the middle of Lloyd Street obstructing traffic to pick up her daughter. She also said they drive a rampvan and have had problems negotiating the turn to get into their driveway because of the parking situation.

Moved by Ald. Moldenhauer, seconded by Ald. Roznowski to approve a 90-day trial of an on-street disabled parking space at 6514 Lloyd Street – Ayes: 5

90-day trial of No U-turn sign in the Blue Mound Road median at Ravenswood Circle

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding a request for a 90-day trial of a No U-turn in the Blue Mound Road median at Ravenswood Circle. Should the City of Wauwatosa work collaboratively with the City of Milwaukee to install a No U turn sign at the median on Blue Mound Road at Ravenswood Circle?

Staff was approached by the Ravenswood Neighborhood Association (RNA) to look at a number of issues. The U-turn concern was one of the problems identified by the RNA. Specifically the problem is after major events at Wisconsin Lutheran College; cars leaving the main driveway of the College turn right out of the main entrance onto Blue Mound Road and use the median break to make a quick U- turn to the east.

The residents requested a No U-turn sign be posted to discourage this movements. Since municipal boundaries straddle the median concurrence from the City of Milwaukee is required to make this change which was felt to be forthcoming.

Mr. Porter explained that the association has concerns that this movement puts them into direct conflict with cars trying to exit Ravenswood Circle and going west on Blue Mound Road.

The City of Milwaukee is on a parallel measure with the City and will be having similar discussions at their committee levels soon. It is expected that they will concur.

Moved by Ald. McBride, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer to approve the City of Wauwatosa working with the City of Milwaukee to install a No U-turn sign for a 90-day trial at the median on Blue Mound Road and Ravenswood Circle. Ayes: 5

Status update regarding implementation of Railroad Quiet Zone

The committee reviewed a memo from the Assistant City Attorney with an update on Wauwatosa's Public Authority Application with the Federal Railroad Administration providing for the implementation of a Railroad Quiet Zone.

The City has submitted all necessary materials as part of its Public Authority Application with the FRA in order to establish a permanent quiet zone along the SOO corridor. All comments from stakeholders have been received by the FRA. The FRA is now considering the application by an expedited review process and has indicated that a determination will be forthcoming. If approved, the City is prepared to issue a Notice of Establishment of Quiet Zone, and train horns should cease within twenty-one days of receipt of this notice.

Eileen Miller-Carter advised that she has spoken with the regional manager at FRA and that the City of Wauwatosa's application is in clearance for final editing. She was hopeful that a final determination would be made by the week-end.

Ms. Miller-Carter answered a question regarding the Harwood crossing. She said that the crossing is compliant for motor vehicle traffic.

Mike Anton, 6324 W. Wells Street, said he has been addressing the train horns concerns and the safety crossing for the past five or six years. He has concerns about trespassing near the Harwood crossing which he felt is a considerable safety issue. Mr. Anton said he has had prior discussions over the years with the City Engineer and former Public Works Director and improvements previously discussed with them have never been put in place.

The committee had a lot of questions but due to time constraints requested that this discussion continue at a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 15, 2013.

Moved by Ald. Wilke, seconded by Ald. Roznowski
to request this discussion continue at a
Committee of the Whole meeting on October 15, 2013. Ayes: 5

Ordinance creating Section 11.36.472 of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code to reduce the speed limit on Ludington Avenue

This item is back to the committee for adoption of the ordinance change to reduce the speed limit on Ludington Avenue.

Moved by Ald. Pantuso, seconded by Ald. Roznowski to
recommend adoption of an ordinance amending Section 11.36.472
of the City Code to reduce the speed limit on Ludington Avenue. Ayes: 5

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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