

MINUTES
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

September 14, 2017

After determining that a quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission was present, the Commission convened the meeting on Monday, September 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Work Session Room, City Hall, 215 East McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

Present: Chair Patrice Lyke, Nancy DiMarco, Jim Owen, Cody Robinson, Karen DeVinney and Courtney Cross

Absent: Daniel Krutka

Also Present: Mark Nelson, Director of Transportation; John Davis, Director of Engineering Services; Pritam Deshmukh, Senior Engineer; Julie Anderson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and Kim Mankin, Administrative Supervisor

OPEN MEETING

- A. TSC17-007** - Consider the approval of Traffic Safety Commission meeting minutes of August 7, 2017.

Approved as circulated

- B. TSC17-008** - Receive a report, hold a discussion and provide direction relating to speed limit along Hickory Street between Avenue A and Welch Street.

Pritam Deshmukh explained this agenda item explaining the speed limit in this area is 30 MPH. It is standard for residential streets. A segment from Ave C to Ave A is posted at 20 MPH front of UNT buildings per City Ordinance. The remainder of the street is 30 MPH. The segment in question was raised by former Commissioner Hennen, to reduce the speed to 20 MPH. Staff collected speed information and speed surveys for a period of about five days. The majority of the drivers are traveling between 25-26 MPH in that section of roadway.

Looking at the different aspects, staff believes it should remain 30 MPH in this section. There is no ordinance currently that would back that section slowing to 20 MPH.

Commissioner DeVinney asked about signage, Deshmukh answered there is a sign.

There was a member of the community that wished to speak about this item. Kim McKibben – 1306 W Hickory – The merchants have requested this be reduced to 20 MPH.

Chair Lyke asked McKibben about her request to speak card stating that the agenda item didn't give enough information for merchants to determine if they needed to be in attendance. McKibben answered the sheet stated there would be a discussion and then the raw data only. Lyke asked if property owners have to be noticed. Deshmukh answered for speed limits no. It is based on Federal and State guidelines.

Commissioner DiMarco asked if this section was reduced is the major cost with the city in enforcement. Deshmukh answered enforcement and compliance.

Commissioner Owen who enforces speeding. The City of Denton. Owen then asked if she would be happy with a fresh traffic survey. McKibben answered she would and would like to let the other merchants in that area know they need to speak about this item.

This item was tabled until the next meeting, November 6.

C. TSC17-009 – Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding no parking any time restriction on the south side of Congress Street from Bolivar Street to Carroll Boulevard

Pritam Deshmukh talked about this item. It was originally brought up by residents in the area. Congress Street has many different lane widths: Oakland to Elm is 20 feet wide with two lanes of traffic and has little area to park, Locust and Elm is commercial and is about 30 feet wide which can support parking on both sides, and from Carroll to Bolivar it is mixed use with 29 feet curb to curb. This area is heavily parked on both sides. Fire department needs 20 feet which would allow for parking on one side.

Staff recommends no park on south side of the Congress.

Chair Lyke asked if there are more parking on the north or south of Congress. Deshmukh answered there are less spaces on the south side. There was some question regarding the parking lot at Carroll and Congress, Chamber of Commerce parking lot.

Citizens talked about this item.

1. Abby Buford – 311 W. Congress - works at Seven Mile Cafe in support of restricting parking on south side, will they have access to parking lot.
2. Chuck Carpenter – 414 Parkway - Chamber of Commerce – The parking lot is private they have lots of meetings. May be supportive of public parking, but there is a sign to support the private parking.
3. Gary Steinmetz – 320 W. Congress - Support no parking on both sides, not safe
4. Josi Klingell – 311 W. Congress - Owner Seven Mile Cafe– supportive of no park on one side
5. Jasmine Foster – 603 Bolivar Apt A. – in favor of restricting parking, her parking is on-street would prefer to have residential parking areas
6. Breanna Bates – work at Seven Mile Cafe – would like to have employee parking in Chamber Parking lot on the weekend

Deshmukh stated the options; to pass an ordinance to restrict parking on one side or decline restricting parking.

Commissioner Robinson stated that perhaps Seven Mile Café and Chamber could have a conversation about the parking lot. This commission is looking at safety and restricting parking on one side.

Motion was made to approve staff recommendation of no park on the South side of Congress by Commissioner Owen with a second by Commissioner Robinson.

Vote 6-0 approved.

- D. TSC17-011** – Receive a report, hold a discussion, and make a recommendation to City Council to establish a new School Speed Zone along Lakeview Boulevard between Black Walnut and Burr Oak Lane - Pecan Creek Elementary School.

Pritam Deshmukh explained about this item and showed the location on the map. There are currently no school zones along Lakeview Blvd. There is a sidewalk along the street. The PTA has been asking for a school zone for some time. There has been a speed survey completed. The 85th percentile is above 30 MPH. There is a crosswalk, and Deshmukh has talked with the principal about the use of a crossing guard.

Deshmukh showed the area that is recommended for the school zone. If it passes the equipment will have to be ordered and could be ready for next school year.

Dimarco asked will there be a crosswalk – Deshmukh answered there is one already in place that is ADA compliant.

DeVinney asked if there will be signage. Deshmukh answered there will be signs and flashers.

1. Adrene Hill – TWU Student – asked about data for this school zone such as accidents, if children was afraid to cross.
Deshmukh answered the speed was a problem and issue with vehicles dropping off students. To more control the area the school zone is appropriate.
Hill then asked if this would be sent to Council for their approval. Lyke answered it would be recommended by this Commission and sent to Council.

**Motion was made to approve the school zone along Lakeview by Commissioner DeVinney with a second by Commissioner DiMarco.
Vote 6-0 approved.**

- E. TSC17-012** – Receive a report, hold a discussion, and make a recommendation to City Council for amending Chapter 18, Section 18-38, of the Code of Ordinances, Use of Wireless Communication Devices While Driving.

Chief Howell talked about this item stating that this commission recommended the current ordinance that was passed in December. House bill 62 was passed a State wide texting ban. The City attorney's office looked at this and determined; in order to keep the ordinance and State Law is to make an exception in the ordinance stating it was not preempted. The wording would be added to our existing ordinance. Officers would enforce by State Law if someone was texting, and by City Ordinance if it was used as a phone.

The recommended violation by State is \$99, City Ordinance states up to \$200. Typically the judge uses the \$99 fine.

**Motion was made to recommend approval of the amendment by Commissioner DiMarco with a second by Commissioner Owen.
Vote 6-0 approved.**

F. TSC17-013 – Staff Reports:

1. Matrix

DeVinney – Parking on Marietta Street between Oak Street and Scripture

Cross – Fannin Street mirror for visibility concern

Robinson – Visibility issue Old North crossing University NB

CONCLUDING ITEMS

A. Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Mobility Committee of the Denton City Council, Traffic Safety Commission or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

AND

Under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

1) Adjournment: **6:54pm**

Approved on November 6, 2017.