

TRAFFIC BOARD MEETING 1001
MINUTES
Mayor's Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall
Thursday, December 18, 2014

ITEMS CONSIDERED

Call to Order. Called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

Traffic Board Member Present: Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; Bill Berg, Council person; William Yeager, Assistant Police Chief; Gary Holmes DPW Commissioner)

Traffic Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Katherine Davis, Principal Clerk; Cyndi Paddick, BTMS, Dave Petryszyn, BPD; William Lescault, BPD; Dan Correll, retired BPD Officer; Leigh McCullen, Planning; Matt Ryan, former Binghamton Mayor

Approval of Minutes. Request to approve the minutes from Traffic Board Meeting 997, held on Thursday August 21, 2014 and the minutes from Traffic Board Meeting 1000, held on Thursday, November 20th, 2014

Moved by G. Holmes, seconded by W. Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-0)

Ayes: J. Kraham, W. Yeager, B. Berg, G. Holmes

Nays: None

Absent: None

Washington Street and Hawley Street – Intersection walk light. Mr. Holmes will report back at the January meeting after confirming the light. Mr. Correll noted that this could be affected if the direction of Washington Street is changed due to the Washington Street parking project. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

Back-in Parking on Court Street. This item will be held until a traffic and parking study is conducted by the city. **Hold until study is complete.**

Leroy and Front Streets Traffic Light. Hold and re-evaluate for January. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

351 Front Street. At the August Traffic Board meeting, Ms. McCullen presented the applicant's proposal for constructing an addition to the existing building which is currently operating a towing, auto repair and car rental business. They need Traffic Board approval for an 80 foot curb cut variance. Motion for approval of an 80 foot curb cut variance on Franklin Street was approved at August meeting. Traffic will look into a weight limit sign and report back. Mr. Correll reported that there is currently a ton restriction in place. The missing 5 ton weight limit sign needs to be replaced. **Item completed.**

Beethoven Street and Leroy Street Accidents. Mr. Kraham suggested that after the Riverside Drive construction is completed, Traffic Board should look at this intersection again. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

Greenway Crossing-Court Street. Mr. Kraham stated that it is in agreement that there needs to be a guide for pedestrians to walk down to the light to cross the street and back up. Mr. Holmes noted that something similar to the Clinton Street bridge could be done here. Assistant Chief Yeager stated that putting in a crosswalk is a major safety issue and is not recommended. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

Front Street and Main Street Corner. Ms. Leslie Dahlgren posed a safety issue at the corner of Front and Main. There are three lanes approaching the Court Street Bridge, but there is no left turn arrow. She claims there are numerous “close-calls” due to confusion by drivers as to who has the right of way. People start to make their turn, while other cars continue going straight toward JC. It looks like there was an arrow there at one point, but it’s been covered over with a black shroud. Traffic reported the following:

The Traffic Board received a request from Leslie Dahlgren, through DPW First Deputy Commissioner Jonathan Yeager, concerning traffic she describes as a safety issue. Ms. Dahlgren request describes her concern with three traffic lanes eastbound on Main Street at Front Street. The lanes are marked as a left turn only, right turn only and straight through. She claims that the left turn lane has several “close calls” due to motorist confusion by drivers who have the right of way to turn. She states that eastbound traffic that starts to make their turn are in near collisions with west bound straight through traffic. She implies that the confusion may be caused by a protected left turn arrow traffic light that is covered over with a black shroud.

The Traffic Division responded to the intersection of Main Street at Front Street to review the traffic pattern to assure that there is no conflict in the traffic flow due to overlapping signals from the traffic control device. There are none. Although, originally set up to allow east bound traffic, as is with west bound traffic, a protected left turn after the Main Street project was completed several years ago, it was changed to prohibit the protected left turn, The left turning traffic would instead be under the control of the solid green indicator as is the other eastbound traffic and could turn only when safely yielding to the westbound straight through and right turn traffic at the intersection with Front Street.

The Traffic Division then followed up with a review of traffic incidents at the intersection of Front and Main Streets over the past three years. There were 41 overall traffic incidents reported at that intersection over that time period. Of those incidents only 9 were related directly to left turn incidents on Main Street, eastbound, at Front Street. The incidents for those years are as follows:

2012 – 5 incidents (1- Left turning vehicle sideswiped southbound vehicle, 1– Assumed left turn arrow, 1- Failed to yield the right of way, 1- Crossed double yellow line into east bound traffic, 1- Failed to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk).

2013 – 4 incidents (1- Following too closely and rear ended vehicle in front, 1– Assumed left turn arrow, 2- Failed to yield the right of way).

2014 – 0 incidents.

Of the 9 incidents (3 in 2012, 3 in 2013 and 0 in 2014) 6 may have been eliminated if a protected left turn traffic control device was activated at the intersection. It appears that the intersection is working as subjected.

The Traffic Division recalls the reason for deactivation of that device several years ago was to increase the west bound traffic flow time from downtown from bottlenecking without inhibiting the east bound left turn traffic.

In addition, Ms. Paddick recommended trying to run the light concurrently with the other turn signal for while to see what the results are. She will look at the current count at this light before a decision is made. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

Washington Street Redevelopment Project. Previous questions raised: No right hand turn signal, changing the direction of Washington Street and research why it is currently going in the direction it is, pedestrian safety, signal change at Hawley and Washington Street. Redesign of the plans showing changes.

Mr. Matt Ryan stated that the Board should re-consider this project because it is very unsafe and in addition, it will be very costly in the long run and unwarranted.

Mr. Holmes reported that one of the questions was the parallel parking which has since been eliminated. They are now pull-in parking. They also moved the handicapped parking spaces to the front of the parking lot so it is safer for them to exit vehicles. Green space will now be available at both ends and there will also be more sidewalk space at the beginning. The north side will have more green space. They are proposing moving the crosswalk to the west side. They recommended not changing the direction of Washington Street. Ms. Paddick would like to see a revised plan.

Traffic Board would like the following three items addressed:

1. Increase in passageway opening near the vaults.
2. Adjust the sidewalk configuration
3. Increase standard back-up to from 22 feet to 24 feet.

Mr. Berg wants to hold until second week in January 2015 meeting after all the changes have been made. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

12 Market Street. Councilman Motsavage's neighbor at 12 Market Street stated there was no parking in front of his house years ago because the no parking sign from his house to the corner was on the other side of his driveway. The sign is currently between their property lines and there is room for one car in front of 12 Market Street. The problem is when it snows, the Town Of Dickinson residents have to take their cars off the street and they park in front of 12 Market Street. Is it possible to move the no parking here to corner sign closer to his driveway or on the other side of 12 Market Street? Traffic did not have a chance to look into this and will report in January. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

59 Burr Avenue. Mr. William Cafferty is currently in the process of purchasing the duplex at 59 Burr Street within the next 6 months however, the driveway that is allotted for this house is in extremely bad shape. Over the years of neglect from the current owner the driveway has practically vanished and looks more like a hill challenge than a means of parking your vehicle safely. Since the house is a duplex generally speaking, each household in today's times have 2 cars which makes a total of 4 just for this residence. Their only options have been to park on the street which we thought was legal considering that was what their landlord told them. As it turns out, it is not legal. They are requesting that the city reevaluate the given address to deem it suitable for additional on street parking or allow Mr. Cafferty and his fiancé to park on the street until they rebuild the driveway come spring time next year. They have already been ticketed 3 times in the past 2 months which totaled \$135. Traffic is meeting with Mr. Cafferty and will report in January. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

Lewis Street. Removal of parking meters. East of Henry St. in front of Lackawanna Train Station, both sides of street. Mr. Kraham reported that this came up because they have not been in working order for some time and they are not in high demand since this is not a functioning Train station anymore.

Motion to remove 2 hour parking meters on Lewis Street, east of Henry to Fayette on both sides and replace with 2 hour parking zone signs and Motion for Pine Street from Carroll to Fayette; remove 2 hour parking meters and replace with residential 6 hour parking.

Moved by Berg, seconded by W. Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-0)

Ayes: J. Kraham, W. Yeager, B. Berg, G. Holmes

Nays: None

Absent: None

285 Main Street. Proposal for new curb cut onto Main Street at the VA Clinic. The curb opening would be no greater than 30 feet. The organization is providing 105 parking spaces. They are attempting to line the curb cut up with the Burger King across the street.

Motion to install new curb cut on Main Street at this location.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Berg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-0)

Ayes: J. Kraham, W. Yeager, B. Berg, G. Holmes

Nays: None

Absent: None

77 West End Avenue. Mr. Joe Michitti, resident at 77 West End Ave is requesting a "No Parking" zone be placed between his driveway and the Armory driveway because, regarding the small space between his driveway and the Armory's driveway. It is when there is an event at the Armory or the Reservists are in town someone always parks there and it creates an obstruction for him pulling out of his driveway. Traffic recommended that a "No Parking" zone be placed at this location.

Motion to install No Parking Zone- West End Avenue-West Side, from 369 feet south of the Armory Lane to 485 feet south.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Berg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-0)

Ayes: J. Kraham, W. Yeager, B. Berg, G. Holmes

Nays: None

Absent: None

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 11:12 a.m.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, W. Yeager, G. Holmes

Nays: None

Absent: Berg