

TRAFFIC BOARD MEETING 997
Minutes
Mayor's Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall
Thursday, August 21, 2014

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; William Lescault, Police Officer (representing Assistant Chief Yeager); Joseph Mihalko Councilman (representing Bill Berg);

Traffic Board Members Absent: William Yeager, Assistant Police Chief; Bill Berg, Councilman

Also Present: Daniel Correll, Police Sergeant (Retired); Katherine Davis, Principal Clerk; Tito Martinez, City Planning; Cyndi Paddick, BMTS

Approval of Minutes. Request to approve the minutes from Traffic Board Meeting 996, held on Thursday, July 17, 2014. Moved by Lescault, seconded by Mihalko.

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-2)

Ayes: Kraham, Mihalko, Lescault

Nays: None

Absent: Berg, Yeager

ITEMS CONSIDERED

Washington Street and Hawley Street - Intersection walk light. This item is held until the next Traffic Board meeting in September because Mr. Holmes is absent. **Item held until next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th.**

Back-in Parking on Court Street. Mr. Kraham reported that he will meet with Mr. Holmes in Engineering to make sure these parking spaces are accessible for handicapped parking spots on Court Street and report back at the September meeting.

Court Street and Milford Street. Mr. Bob Woodward requested that the stop sign be placed in a better position at this corner. Mr. Correll reported that the stop sign on Milford is a State owned sign and it is sitting back 30-40 feet from the corner. There appears to be a hole in the ground closer to the corner where there was a previous sign. Mr. Correll reported the following:

The Traffic Division received a July 3rd Inter Department Correspondence from Traffic Board Chairman Jared Kraham to review the placement of a Stop Sign on Milford Street, south bound, at Court Street. The IDC implied that constituents in that neighborhood feel that it is too far from the intersection and if they stopped at its present location they would not have an adequate line of sight to the Court Street traffic.

The Traffic Division upon reviewing found a state inserted sign pole with a stop sign attached to control south bound traffic on the west curb line of Milford Street. The sign was about forty feet north of the intersection of Court Street. Although its present location was back at a point that if motorist initially stopped in advance of the sign they could not see traffic on Court Street, this would not impede them from pulling forward and stopping again prior to the intersection to view the cross traffic again.

The Traffic Division, upon further observing that corner where a more appropriate location could be for a stop sign, did locate a hole in the pavement where it appears that a sign may have been previously placed. This location did not appear to obstruct any line of sight or pedestrian passage.

Upon contacting Tony Signorelli, Traffic Engineer, NYS DOT Traffic and Safety of the concern he did detail a crew to review it and after, advised that even though the present location did not appear to be in error that he would have the sign moved to the point more closer to the intersection. **No action needed.**

Chenango Street and West State Street. Councilwoman Lea Webb requested that Traffic Board look into the pedestrian walking infrastructure at the entrance to the K-Mart plaza. Mr. Correll reported the following:

The Traffic Division received a request from Traffic Board Chairman Jared Kraham at the July, 2014, Traffic Board meeting to review the pedestrian walking infrastructure at the intersection of Chenango and West State Street and the entrance to the Binghamton Plaza (K-Mart entrance). The request appears to be a concern with pedestrians crossing the street at that location and then once across the street access to the businesses which are on the far side of the plaza.

The first concern may be due to the lack of pedestrian (cross/don't cross) controls at that location. A study to determine if they are warranted would have to be conducted over a period of time. If they are warranted for the intersection then a budget line item would have to be created and then purchased. If it is not warranted then the existing structure appears to be adequate as those crosswalks are in place and pedestrians would have to obey the traffic signals for that area.

The second concern would appear to be a plaza management issue, as this is private property. Once the pedestrians crossed the intersection from the east side of the street to the west side and enter the plaza property there is no walkways of designated pedestrian lanes. This issue would affect not only the pedestrians entering the plaza but also motorist parking their vehicles in the parking area and then walking to the businesses.

The only other obvious issue would be the lack of a sidewalk on the west side of the street parallel to West State Street. An engineer study would have to be done to determine the public access to that side of the street and then installed if indeed there is a city right of way along that curb line.

Ms. Paddick will check with Scott Reigle from BMTS to see what the results of the walking audit were and she will report back to Traffic Board. Mr. Kraham will speak with Mr. Holmes regarding the upcoming 2015 projects and report back to Traffic Board. **Both Ms. Paddick and Mr. Kraham will report their finding at the next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.**

Leroy and Front Streets Traffic Light. M&T Bank and River House are having issues at this location because the traffic is backing up due to construction on Riverside Dr. They would like a four way flashing light at this intersection during the construction period. DPW will look into the timing of the current lights to see if they can be adjusted to provide more time for people to exit the two facilities. This item is held until the next Traffic Board meeting in September because Mr. Holmes is absent. **Item held until next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.**

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. Trucks will have to back into the facility on Franklin. There is potential for extra noise due to the extra amount of trucks coming and going. At today's meeting, Mr. Martinez reported that company removed the parking on the east side of the lot to allow for trucks to park and move around. They need Traffic Board approval for an 80 foot curb cut variance. Mr. Kraham suggested a weight limit sign on Franklin Street and Mr. Correll suggested that a "Local Truck Traffic Only" sign be installed as well. **The decision on the two signs will be held until next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.**

Motion for approval of an 80 foot curb cut variance on Franklin Street.

Moved by Mihalko, seconded by Lescault

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-2)

Ayes: Kraham, Mihalko, Lescault

Nays: None

Absent: Berg, Yeager

Holiday Inn-Downtown. The Holiday Inn requested directional signage be posted near Prospect Street. Mr. Correll reported that the owner feels that his customers are having a hard time finding the hotel due to the highway construction. The owner would like a sign that says “Holiday Inn” with double arrow directions. If approved, the hotel will have to purchase the signs and the city would post them. This item is held until the next Traffic Board meeting in September because Mr. Holmes is absent. **Item held until next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th.**

100 Chenango Place. A request by Bethany Finch for a “Yield to Pedestrians” sign to be installed at this location. Mr. Correll reported the following:

The Traffic Division received the attached correspondence from Traffic Board Chairman Jared Kraham, directed to the Mayor Rich David’s office, from Bethany Finch, president of the Tenants Association, 100 Chenango Place, with a concern for the residents at that senior citizen housing location crossing the street.

The Traffic Division responded to the area to review the concern. Chenango Street is a two lane, north-south roadway. A pedestrian crosswalk is marked on the pavement from the east to the west curb line of Chenango Street. There is on street parking along the west curb line that is in compliance with the NYS Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for the appropriate distance to maintain an adequate line of sight for pedestrians using the crosswalk.

To address the concerns of the residents of that area there are two options:

- a) Yellow Diamond Angle Warning Sign with pedestrian symbol in crosswalk in advance of the crossing in each direction to alert motorist that there is a crosswalk ahead.*
- b) In Street portable stop for pedestrian in crosswalk sign alerting motorist to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.*

The first one is a warning only sign and the second one is an enforceable sign that motorist must stop for pedestrians using the crosswalk.

Ms. Paddick will look at this location and report back at the next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.

Oak Street and Leroy Street Traffic Light. Kraham reported that a tractor trailer hit the signal and damaged it in the process. The traffic light came down and there is a temporary four way stop currently in place. Ms. Paddick reported that a four way stop is warranted at this intersection and is the right thing if there is no signal. She stated that a four way stop is needed, a two way stop would not suffice. Ms. Paddick suggested that a memo should be sent to the Binghamton City School District of the change. Mr. Kraham will inform Dr. Penna about this new change, before the school year begins.

A motion to install four permanent stop signs with “4 way” on the sign, change the parking spaces as needed and install all necessary painting on the streets and then review the intersection in 6 months to see if there are any issues.

Moved by Mihalko, seconded by Lescault

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-2)

Ayes: Kraham, Mihalko, Lescault

Nays: None

Absent: Berg, Yeager

Chenango Street and Eldridge Street Intersection. A large building on the west side of Eldridge Street makes it very difficult for motorists to see oncoming traffic from the north side. A request was made to install a “No Turn on Red” sign at this corner to avoid any potential accidents. **Traffic will look into this and report back at the next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.**

Beethoven Street and Leroy Street Accidents. Mr. Mihalko requested that this intersection be reviewed by Traffic Board because there have been three accidents in one month. Mr. Correll reported the following:

The Traffic Division received the attached correspondence from Councilman Joseph Mihalko showing pictures of a motor vehicle into the fence of a resident at a 144 Leroy Street and a citing a concern that there is an increase in the number involving motor vehicle incidents at the intersection of Leroy Street and Beethoven Street. Mr. Mihalko also cites the need to finish street striping and crosswalk painting He also inquires if one traffic control device (traffic lights) can be replaced with another (four way stops), It is assumed that he feels this action would reduce or eliminate motor vehicle incidents at that intersection.

The Traffic Division responded to the above intersection to review the immediate area to see if there was any change in the area to provoke an increase in reported motor vehicle incidents. The Traffic Control Device was operating in proper sequence. There were no obstructions to the light. The only observable change to that area was a detour route established to move motor vehicle traffic off of Riverside Drive and onto adjacent streets during the upgrade street construction of Riverside Drive.

The Traffic Division also reviewed the reported motor vehicle accidents at the intersection of Beethoven Street and Leroy Street for the last three years. Nine reports directly related to that intersection were found;

2012 - 1

2013 - 3

2014 – 5.

Of the five incidents in 2014 one was in June, two were in July and two in August. In reviewing those incidents none appeared related. Two incidents involved driver inattention in not knowing if they had a green light; one involved a turning incident where he failed to control his vehicle; one involved a vehicle yielding to pedestrian traffic crossing the roadway against the traffic light and upon the operator resuming his travel was struck by a motorist who observed the pedestrian traffic but not the other vehicle and proceeded into the intersection when the light changed to green and was in collision and the last one involved a motorist disregarding the traffic control and was in collision with another vehicle.

At this time the Traffic Division finds no recourse to eliminate the increase in incidents, but will review the intersection periodically to attempt to detect any faults to assure public safety during the increased traffic through the area.

Ms. Paddick will look into this location and review the accidents reports and report back at the next Traffic Board meeting on Thursday, September 18th. Item held.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 10:49 a.m.

Moved by Mihalko, seconded by Lescault

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-2)

Ayes: Kraham, Mihalko, Lescault

Nays: None

Absent: Berg, Yeager