

City of Lawrence Transportation Commission April 3, 2017 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Bryan, David Hamby, Chris Storm, Jeff Severin, Kathryn Schartz, Mark Hurt, Steve Evans, John Ziegelmeyer, Michelle Dillon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron May, Erin Paden

STAFF PRESENT: David Cronin, Public Works Department
Nicholas C. Voss, Public Works Department
Jessica Mortinger, MPO Douglas County

PUBLIC PRESENT: Artith Peirce, Charles Hill, Dan Paige, Andy Majors, Matt Webber, Michael Almon

A complete video recording of the meeting is available on the City's website at <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/transportation-commission/>

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Bryan at 6:07 p.m. in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

ITEM NO. 1:

[Approve of March 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

[Moved by Commissioner Hurt, second by Commissioner Storm](#), to approve minutes. The motion carried, 9-0.

ITEM NO. 2:

[General Public Comment](#)

Public Discussion:

Artith Peirce, University Place resident, is concerned about any projects that could increase traffic along 19th Street. Concerns that traffic could change the character of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Evans: Steve Evans asked about what analytics were used to measure the current verses the proposed impact of the project.

David Cronin stated that the city has traffic counts every three years so that traffic history can be tracked. For future growth cut through traffic could be difficult to quantify.

ITEM NO. 3:

Traffic Calming Items

Prescott Drive

Staff Presentation: Nick Voss stated that in June 2016 city staff received a traffic calming request on Prescott Drive. City staff is recommending that the request is denied as it did not meet the requirements set by the traffic calming policy.

Commission Discussion: Steve Evans: How do you handle cut through traffic. Dave Cronin stated that staff is located on either end counting cars during the peak hour.

Public Discussion: Charles Hill stated he had been in the neighborhood longer than any of his neighbors. He spoke opposed to the proposed traffic calming. He cited the layout of the streets and opposition to traffic calming device.

Dan Paige stated that he had been in the neighborhood longer than Charles Hill. He spoke in favor of traffic calming. He cited children in the neighborhood.

Commission Discussion: David Hamby spoke on the creation of the traffic calming policy and spoke about how on street parking acted as traffic calming and slowed traffic down. He stated that the City has traffic calming that is not funded.

Chris Storm: Cited emails that were opposed to proposed traffic calming.

Moved by Commissioner Dillon, second by Commissioner Shartz, to deny the request for traffic calming. The motion carried, 9-0

Kensington Road

Staff Presentation: Nick Voss stated that in September of 2016 city staff received a traffic calming request on Kensington Road. City staff recommended approving the request as it met the requirement for a collector street with more than 50% of the frontage included residential lots facing the roadway; Kensington has 100% residential frontage.

Commission Discussion: Steve Evans asked for clarification on frontage requirements. Nick Voss stated that the driveway access was the same as a frontage road. Mark Hurt asked if all streets in the area that have residential frontage and would be eligible for traffic calming. Jessica Mortinger displayed the functional classes for streets in the area and Nick Voss stated that frontage was only a qualification for collector streets. Charlie Bryan asked about traffic being pushed to other residential streets. David Cronin stated that it this would be a possibility but Kensington does not have a lot of volume. David Cronin spoke on the different classifications of streets. Steve Evans asked about future traffic calming on collectors with and how many other similar streets in Lawrence could qualify under this condition. Staff did not have the information

but would report back to the commission. John Ziegelmeyer stated that it was uncommon for a request to only meet this criterion. Chris Storm and city staff discussed the classification of Kensington. Mark Hurt asked about how the staff recommendation was formed. David Cronin stated that it was based on the current traffic calming policy. An overview of the neighborhood was reviewed.

Public Discussion: Andy Majors spoke in favor of the traffic calming. He cited the speed including the speed limit along the school.

Jason Barnhill spoke in opposition to traffic calming. He cited lack on congestion and cars parked on the side of the road. He does not consider speed to be in issue for this area. He asked about the safe routes to school.

Matt Webber spoke in opposition to traffic calming. He cited a reduction in traffic with the south Lawrence trafficway, overall low volume, and speed.

Andy Majors asked about safe routes to school. Nick Voss provided information on safe routes to school including a map for the local elementary school.

Commission Discussion: David Hamby stated that this would not meet the criteria for a local street. He stated that drivers drive the speed that they are comfortable and changing the speed limit may not change the speed on the street. Charlie Bryan asked for staff to find how many streets may qualify under the residential frontage road condition only. David Hamby stated that if this was approved that it would be on the bottom of the traffic calming list. Steve Evans stated that it would be appropriate to make a motion against policy. David Hamby stated that the commission makes a recommendation to the city commission.

Moved by Commissioner Evans, second by Commissioner Severin, to deny the request for traffic calming. The motion carried, 9-0

ITEM NO. 4:

[Lawrence Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Planning 101](#)

Staff presentation: Jessica Mortinger presented on the MPO. She provided an overview of the plans and planning process that the MPO provides. She stated that the MPO provides a transportation planning process for all modes the improve safety and the movement of people and goods.

Commission Discussion: Steve Evans asked about the University of Kansas being a non-voting member. Jessica stated that they have an opportunity to give input but that they do not contribute financially.

Charlie Bryan asked about the planning area. Jessica discussed how the metropolitan planning boundary was set.

Charlie Bryan asked how often the boundaries are reviewed. Jessica stated that it is reviewed with the census.

Charlie Bryan asked about what percent of roads the MPO work with. Jessica stated that collector and above functional classification are typically the roads that would have a regional significance.

Charlie Bryan asked about the bike routes. Jessica stated that it was a different network.

ITEM NO. 5:

[Discussion of future staff presentation topics](#)

Commission Discussion: Charlie Bryan asked about future staff presentations.

Steve Evans asked about a pedestrian and bicycle presentation. Strategic curriculum on future issues. He would like to learn more about how budgets are set for capital improvement projects. Reviewing policies such as voting being on within 300 ft of a traffic calming device.

Jeff Severin stated that the agenda could have a link to related policies. Business should be held at the meetings and additional education could be held outside of the meetings.

Commission Discussion: Steve Evans discussed the administration of the projects and that is was difficult to get 70% within 300 feet because property owners can be difficult to reach. The impact area should be considered in the vote.

ITEM NO. 6:

[Commission Items](#)

Chris Storm asked for a list of collectors that only meet the frontage criteria.

Steve Evans asked for a budget overview and how the Transportation Commission ties into the budget.

ITEM NO. 7:

[Calendar](#)

- a. Next Meeting Monday May 1, 2017 6:00 PM
- b. Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Webinar Series
<https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/webinars>

ITEM NO. 8:

[Adjournment](#)

Moved by Commissioner Shartz, and second by Commissioner Hamby, to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.. The motion carried, 9-0.