

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 NORTH FRONT STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 100
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012
5:00 P.M

Present were:

Voting Members: Carr, Croasmun, Simmons, Simonds, Stitt, Wood

Advisory Member: Mull

Executive Secretary: Austin

Division of Mobility Options Staff: Christian, Keeran, Lewis, Popa, Stefanik

Division of Planning and Operations Staff: Kendrick

Guests: Tony Borres, Jennifer Kangas, Joel-Henry J. Mansfield, John Bennett, Mark Stasik, Kevin Rice, Joseph Hebdo, Sarah Danner, Glenn McEntyre, Bill Price

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Motion for approval of June 12, 2012, minutes: Stitt; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Curb Ramps Prioritization and Funding

Jim Christian, ADA Manager, Division of Mobility Options, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the citywide 2012 curb ramp projects. Copies of slides are available upon request.

Discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Residential Permit Parking Request – Leland Avenue

Keith Keeran gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request. Mr. Keeran indicated staff received valid petitions requesting residential permit parking on Leland Avenue from Milton Avenue to High Street. The restriction sought was “no parking from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. every day, except City permit.” Staff’s recommendation was not to approve the request, as the parking percentage requirements were not met during the parking studies conducted. Mr. Keeran indicated that after Tony Borres, Delawanda Residents Association, was notified of staff’s recommendation, he requested the City waive the

requirement and grant an exception to the City's policy. He also requested the restriction apply to only the eastern most two thirds of Leland Avenue. These requests were also denied by staff. Mr. Borres then requested a hearing before this Commission.

Advisory Member Mull reported on this issue. He indicated late shift police officers were directed to look at the parking situation the entire month of June. The results of this effort indicated there may be quality-of-life issues, but there are no issues to keep police going back to the area until called or on routine patrol. Lt. Mull will ask the liaison officer for the area to reach out to the owners of the local establishments in an effort to discourage patrons from parking on Leland.

Tony Borres, President of the Delawanda Residents Association, and Kevin Rice, area home owner, gave a PowerPoint presentation (copies of slides are available upon request) in support of their request to approve permit parking, so they can reduce the number of non-residents parking on Leland and thereby reduce the issues they are facing. The issues include limited parking for residents, blocked driveways, noise, littering, hit-and-run accidents, vandalism, and physical threats. They indicated the patrons of local establishments are the biggest contributors to those issues.

Jennifer Kangas and Joel-Henry J. Mansfield, area residents, also spoke in support of request. John Bennett, Mark Stasik, Joseph Hebdo, and Sarah Danner were present for discussion on this issue.

During lengthy discussion, it was suggested that staff further study the area on a weekend during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Motion to have staff look at Leland again at the times recommended, and also have Lt. Mull have an officer canvas the area, check again, and then come back with the new findings and recommendations at the August Commission meeting: Simmons; 2nd, Croasmun. Motion carried.

Crosswalk Requests – Olentangy River Road at Longaberger

Nick Popa gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on this issue. Copies of slides are available upon request. He reported staff conducted a standard crosswalk investigation into a citizen's request back in 2008 to place a crosswalk across Olentangy River Road near the Ohio State University at Longaberger Alumni House and Fawcett Center. Staff recommended no action be taken at this time due to the crossing being event driven, the availability of alternate existing paths of safe travel, and the fact that OSU has a long-term plan to realign Berror Road. Staff requested the Commission's support.

Discussion.

Motion to support staff's recommendation to take no action at this time: Simmons; 2nd, Stitt. Motion carried.

Staff will look into the possibility of using way-finding signs to encourage pedestrians to cross Olentangy River Road at Lane Avenue.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Potential Parking Code Amendment Update

Nick Popa reported the Parking Code Amendment revision will be heard at City Council July 16th. If passed, enforcement will occur thirty days later. A public meeting was held in June and was received favorably by the community.

Downtown Action Plan Update

Jessica Kendrick gave update as follows:

High Street

The City is getting ready to begin the design to add on-street parking to High Street from Mound to Goodale. Parking meters and associated signs should be installed by City crews by the end of the year. The other part of the High Street project is to add sharrows and adjust lane lines, or widen curb lanes. That will be done next year during a resurfacing project. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 26th; Mrs. Kendrick will advise Commissioner Croasmun when meeting is confirmed.

Front and Marconi Two-way Conversion

Front Street will be converted to two-way operation between Broad and Hickory, and Marconi will be converted to two-way operation from Broad to Spring. Decorative mast arms will be used for signal upgrades. Construction will start in the middle of next year.

Front Street is now five lanes northbound with some full-time parking. It will be converted to two lanes in each direction with a center, two-way, left-turn lane. Parking will be permitted during off-peak hours, but restricted during peak hours. Marconi is now five lanes southbound, but narrows down to three lanes at Broad Street. There is no on-street parking between Long and Spring, but there is full-time parking south of Long. That will become one travel lane in each direction with a center, two-way, left-turn lane. There will be full-time parking on the west side between Long and Spring and full-time parking on both sides south of Long.

Broad Street

There is a possibility that one travel lane in each direction can be removed on Broad from Marconi to I-71. This is currently being analyzed.

Near East and South Area Traffic Control Modification Update

Jessica Kendrick reported on this issue. She indicated staff met with the Chairs of the Livingston Avenue Area Commission and the Columbus Southside Area Commission to brief them on the project. The Chair of the Near East Area Commission was not able to attend the briefing. Staff plans to make a presentation to the Livingston Avenue and the Columbus Southside area commissions on July 31, and hopes to present to the Near East Area Commission on August 9. Staff hopes to have a public open house by the end of July.

Parking Policy Update

Nick Popa reported there will be outreach concerning Residential Permit Parking occurring in August to the Italian Village and the University area commissions. Loading Zone and On-street Handicap Parking policy updates are in progress.

ACTON ITEM

Election of Officers

Executive Secretary Austin indicated Steve Simmons has volunteered to step up as chairperson.

Discussion.

Motion to approve Steve Simmons as Chairperson of the Commission: Carr; 2nd, Croasmun; Simmons abstained. Motion carried.

Executive Secretary Austin asked for a volunteer to serve as vice chairperson. Commissioner Croasmun volunteered.

Motion to approve Valorie Croasmun as Vice Chairperson of this Commission; Wood; 2nd, Stitt. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Grove
Recording Secretary

Steve Simmons
Vice Chairperson

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED; RECORDING IS ON FILE
AT 109 NORTH FRONT STREET