



Traffic Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION March 8, 2017

At the Traffic Commission meeting of University City held in the Heman Park Community Center, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, Chairman Jeff Hales called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. In addition to Chairman Hales, the following members of the commission were present:

- Bart Stewart
- Eva Creer
- Curtis Tunstall
- Derek Helderman
- Jeffrey Mishkin

Also in attendance:

- Errol Tate(non-voting commission member – Public Works Liaison)
- Sinan Alpaslan (Public Works Director)
- Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson (non-voting commission member—Council Liaison)
- Police Department Sergeant Shawn Whitley (non-voting commission member – Police Department Liaison)

Absent (excused):

- Jeff Zornes

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tunstall moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Mr. Helderman. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A. January 11, 2017 Minutes

Mr. Tunstall made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting and was seconded by Helderman. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Agenda Items

a. Restriction of high profile vehicles parking in the westbound lane of Forsyth in-between the entrance and exit of Bethel Lutheran Church at 7001 Forsyth Blvd.

Mr. Tate presented the request from Bethel Lutheran Church and members Gary Sheetz and Wayne Flesch.

Churchmember Gary Sheetz of 7722 Lyle of Richmond Heights addressed the commission about the issues with the poor visibility from the western exit



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drive from the church. He noted that cars often park right to the edge of the driveway and high profile vehicles block the line of sight for vehicles attempting to exit the church lot. The church operates a nursery school daily with regular pickup and drop-off. He requested a restriction on the height of the vehicles parked between the entry and exit driveways and a parking restriction of 10 to 15 feet east of the western exit.

Mr. Tunstall asked Mr. Sheetz and Mr. Sheetz confirmed that nature of the request is safety related.

Mr. Mishkin asked if the restrictions were to be everyday at all hours of the day. Mr. Sheetz confirmed that they would like the restrictions to be at all hours of the day, every day of the week.

Mr. Tunstall asked if they were seeking no parking in the space between the driveways or if the request was for parking of low profile vehicles. Mr. Sheetz clarified that they sought to restrict all parking for 10 to 15 feet to the east of the western exit drive and restrict the remaining spaces to low profile vehicles.

Mr. Stewart asked about the current no parking restriction in front of the church. Mr. Helderman clarified that the current restrictions restrict parking during certain hours.

Mr. Mishkin asked if the city had any restrictions about parking distance from driveways. Sgt. Whitley stated there were no such restrictions in the code and no such restrictions related low profile or compact cars.

Mr. Hales asked if there was an existing ordinance defining compact cars. Mr. Tate stated that the commission had discussed but no action had been taken.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that the staff would have to review and propose an ordinance to accommodate compact or low profile vehicle only parking restriction.

Mr. Helderman stated he thought it would be best to implement compact car parking in the entire space between the driveways.

Mr. Mishkin asked what the enforcement of a compact car only restriction. Sgt. Whitley stated that a compact car would typically be less than 60 inches and violators would be ticketed. He stated that the police would use common sense on enforcement on the height levels.

Mr. Hales stated that he thought the issue was really related to the height and not necessarily the length. He asked if the commission could consider a restriction of no van, truck or SUV parking.



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Mr. Mishkin asked if there had been any accidents. Mr. Sheetz stated there were none that he could recall but there have been a number of close calls. Mr. Mishkin asked if the commission could recommend church parking only in those spaces. Mr. Helderman indicated he thought limiting parking to the church would not be enforceable.

Sgt. Whitley stated that the 10 foot parking restriction would reduce the number of cars that could park between the driveway from 3 to 2.

Mr. Hales stated that he thought if a new restriction on van, truck and SUV parking were to be implemented, that it would be helpful if the public works and police department staff could provide a recommendation on the circumstances or instances where such a restriction should be implemented, such as only near commercial driveways. He suggested that the commission could proceed with restricting parking 10 feet to the east of the western driveway for now and continue discussing the new parking restrictions for high profile vehicles in the coming meetings.

Mr. Helderman asked if the current signage restricting parking during certain hours would remain. Mr. Sheetz stated that was not requested to change.

Mr. Mishkin made a motion to recommend restricting all parking for a distance of 10 feet to the eastern edge of the western driveway exit of Bethel Lutheran Church and was seconded by Mr. Tunstall. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Permanently make Loop South a two way street from Kingsland Avenue to a point four hundred and twenty-four feet to the east.

Mr. Tate presented the staff recommendation to make this portion of Loop South two-way.

Mr. Hales informed the commission that he also spoke with Jessica Bueler who is the Marketing Director for the Loop Special Business District and she conveyed that the businesses in the loop were strongly in favor of the two way traffic on Loop South. He also indicated that Mr. Edwards had come to the previous meeting at which there was no quorum and expressed his support for the proposal as well.

Boo McLaughlin, Executive Director of Craft Alliance (6640 Delmar) presented a letter signed by representatives of Commerce Bank, McArthurs Bakery and Pitaya in support of the recommended two-way traffic on Loop South. She stated that two-way traffic is more convenient to their customers and will be more convenient to delivery trucks with the opening of the Loop Trolley.

Mr. Tate informed the commission that a traffic engineer would be evaluating the street and that the parking would be moved from the southern side to the northern side of the street.



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Mr. Stewart asked if the commission was being asked to make a recommendation on the 2-way traffic only or if the commission was to make a recommendation on the parking as well.

Mr. Tate stated that the timing of the implementation of the two way street and new parking on the north side would take place at the same time.

Mr. Mishkin asked if the city would install parking meters. Mr. Tate stated the city would stripe the spaces.

Mr. Helderman asked if the businesses needed to sign a petition. Mr. Hales stated that there is no requirement in the code, bylaws or charter that the commission get a petition except in the case of residential parking permits. He stated that he believed it was completely within the purview of the commission to make a recommendation.

Mr. Hales asked Ms. McLaughlin if the change of allowing parking on only one side of Loop South was known to her and businesses. Ms. McLaughlin stated that she and the Loop Businesses were not aware of the change in parking to the north side, but did not believe it makes a difference.

Mr. Hales asked if staff was concerned about the potential of losing spaces by moving parking from the south to the north side. Mr. Alpaslan indicated that was a concern and he suggested that the parking engineer provide two options to see if it would be feasible to keep parking on the south side.

Mr. Mishkin asked where the majority of the customers park. Ms. McLaughlin indicated that most people park in the lots behind the buildings and on Loop South.

Mr. Helderman made a motion to recommend that Loop South become two-way traffic as recommended by staff and was seconded by Mr. Mishkin. The motion carried unanimously.

c. No Parking on west side of North and South Road between Gannon Ave. and Cornell Ave.

Mr. Hales introduced the petition from Genevieve Kramer of 7732 Gannon Ave. He commented that there were a lot of people who showed up for this issue at the previous meeting at which there was not a quorum. The petitioner did not show up and was not in attendance on this night.

Mr. Tate presented the request from Ms. Kramer and initially requested that the traffic commission make a recommendation to take to St. Louis County



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but stated that upon further review that staff believed the request should be denied because of the existing parking restriction.

Mr. Hales stated that the road is a county road and the city does not have jurisdiction.

Ms. Natasha Kwon of 622 North and South addressed the commission as a resident and an owner of businesses at North and South and Gannon. She was strongly against the proposed restriction and suggested a stop sign at North and South and Gannon because of the high number of pedestrians and her observations of speeding traffic.

Mr. Mishkin asked what the parking restriction would do to the nearby businesses. Ms. Kwon stated that it would be very negative for the local businesses. Mr. Mishkin asked what the purpose of the four-way stop. Ms. Kwon indicated it was about safety.

Mr. Hales stated that the commission has discussed this intersection and said when he first saw this proposal he was strongly opposed it. He noted that this intersection has very good sightlines from Gannon eastbound looking northbound on North and South because of the 35ft parking restriction for the bus stop. He stated that commission has talked about pedestrian safety at this intersection multiple times in the past and has suggested that city work with the county to install LED solar operated crossing signals at the crosswalk on North and South and Gannon as well as others on Delmar, but the county has not been very receptive to it. He stated that he believes what would really help is if the business community and neighbors contacted the county requesting a signalized crosswalk, it might make a difference.

Sgt. Whitley stated the St. Louis County examined it and decided against crossing signals.

Councilman Smotherson recommended to Ms. Kwon that she contact St. Louis County Councilwoman Hazel Erby with her concerns over the crosswalk safety.

Ms. Mary Adams (6985 Dartmouth) is the Executive Director of the University City Chamber of Commerce and came to speak on behalf of the local businesses. She expressed concern over the potential loss of parking spaces for the local businesses. She emphasized the access to parking being directly related to a business' ability to thrive.

Mr. Hales stated that the floor was open to anyone to make a motion in favor of the proposed restriction. No motions were made. No action was recommended.



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d. Senn Bierwerks Site Plan Update for Information Only

Mr. Alpaslan provided an informational update on the Senn Bierwerks site. He indicated that the traffic patterns on Olive and North and South are still awaiting review and proposals from MODOT and St. Louis County Traffic. He informed the commission that the city has requested the proposed implementation along Olive and North and South which will be brought to the traffic commission as soon as it is received. Mr. Smotherson stated his reason for bringing this to the commission was that the City Council has approved the site plan and he thought the commission should be aware of the proposed changes with the implications to traffic on North and South and Olive which are the jurisdiction of St. Louis County and MODOT respectively.

Mr. Mishkin expressed concern over potential traffic issues related to ingress and egress from the lots. Mr. Alpaslan stated that because Olive is a State road and North and South is a County road that they are responsible for reviewing and making changes to their roads. He indicated that it is possible that one or both agency could recommend changes at which point the commission would be updated.

e. Loop Trolley “Do Not Pass” Code Amendment

Mr. Tate presented the staff recommendation to amend the traffic code to add a do not pass ordinance restricting the passing of the Loop Trolley.

Mr. Hales stated he looked back through the minutes in December of 2012 and Officer Margul indicated that the commission would have to look at whether it wanted to recommend allowing passing of the trolley and asked what considerations went into the recommendation from staff prohibiting passing of the trolley.

Mr. Alpaslan stated that passing of the trolley would violate the rules of the road and the pavement markings because the trolley travels in the traffic lane. He stated that the only area where traffic could pass the trolley would be at Leland where the trolley is in the turn lane.

Mr. Mishkin expressed concern about the trolley travelling in the left hand turn lane while travelling east with through traffic at Leland. Mr. Alpaslan stated that the trolley has its own traffic signal and the traffic has a pre-empt device which will allow the trolley to continue east through the intersection while through traffic heading east will have a red light. He stated that at the Leland intersection, the traffic signal will govern the traffic movement.

Mr. Mishkin expressed concern that the through traffic would proceed when it sees the trolley proceeding through the intersection. Mr. Hales stated he



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shared Mr. Mishkin's concerns and hoped that the traffic engineers had considered these issues.

Mr. Hales asked what the signage would be like in the loop. Mr. Alpaslan stated that the trolleys will have signs on the rear of the trolley stating "Do Not Pass".

Mr. Hales asked if the ordinance applied to bicycle traffic. Mr. Stewart stated that there is a new bike route, but his understanding was that bikes are not prohibited on Delmar. Mr. Alpaslan stated that there is no prohibition to bicycle traffic on Delmar; the signage discouraging bikes is not regulatory, but he indicated that staff would be looking at that. Mr. Alpaslan stated he understood the concerns of the commission about bicycles.

Mr. Helderman stated that while he shared many of the concerns expressed he made a motion to approve the ordinance as recommended. Ms. Creer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

f. Loop Trolley "Obstruction Zone" Create Chapter to the Code

i. The Loop Trolley Track Layout Plans

Mr. Tate stated that the purpose of this ordinance was to restrict vehicles from stopping on the trolley tracks.

Mr. Mishkin made a motion to recommend the ordinance as recommended by staff and was seconded by Mr. Stewart. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Council Liaison Report

None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Tate stated he had one issue that will be coming to the commission at the April meeting related to the study on the school zone speed limit study.

8. Adjournment.

Mr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Mishkin. The motion unanimously carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Minutes prepared by Jeff Hales, Traffic Commission Chairman & Secretary