

MINUTES
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
May 1, 2017

After determining that a quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission was present, the Commission convened the meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Work Session Room, City Hall, 215 East McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

Present: Chair Wally Campbell, Michael Hennen, Jim Owen and Cody Robinson

Absent: Vice Chair Patrice Lyke, Nancy DiMarco and Daniel Krutka

Also Present: Mark Nelson, Director of Transportation; Pritam Deshmukh, Senior Engineer; Trey Lansford, Deputy City Attorney; Julie Anderson, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and Kim Mankin, Administrative Supervisor

Geary Robinson, UNT Transportation Director

OPEN MEETING

- 1) **Consider the approval of Traffic Safety Commission meeting minutes of March 20, 2017.**

Approve as circulated

- 3) **Receive a report, hold a discussion and provide a recommendation on a proposed revision to Ordinance 2006-358 relating to an interlocal agreement between the University of North Texas and City of Denton for the enforcement of parking regulations by the University of North Texas on City of Denton streets.**

Mark Nelson talked about this item stating that the parking of students in neighborhoods has become a concern. One thing that UNT approached the City of Denton with was an update to their existing interlocal agreement and the City of Denton regarding streets they have enforcement over. The primary issues UNT would like to have addressed include metered parking in the Fry Street area and Central Avenue which is a connector street from Eagle.

The park mobile meters would take the existing coin operated meters and put in a smart meter device. The rate would also change from .10 for 12 minutes or .50 an hour to \$2.45 per hour. Also cover the capital cost associated with the parking meters and convenience of the mobile meter. Commissioner Hennen asked for stakeholder information including a public meeting with opinions from the businesses in the area.

Geary Robinson with UNT spoke about a meeting that was put together with the businesses. He has been charged with the task of getting the meters replaced with smart meters. There is a hardship of getting the coins counted from the meters. He reiterated the concern of the business owners regarding only having meters in this part of Denton, no other place has parking meters. The businesses would like to have two hours of free parking. Robinson stated that his concern with that is the parking would be tied up with students and the businesses felt like they could

manage that. The other option would be to implement the park mobile system. There are a couple of parking lots in UNT that already utilize the mobile app.

Nelson added that some of the options could change. The option of the park mobile could be one of the options, with a two hour limit. There could be two hours of free parking. One of the reasons that there is an interlocal agreement is to facilitate enforcement of the parking in the retail area. If a City of Denton police officer gives a parking ticket, it doesn't seem to get paid, if those citations come from a UNT police officer there is more leverage in that transcripts can be held up as well as registration.

Commissioner Hennen stated he is interested in the businesses and what they have to say about this item.

There were some citizens here to speak regarding this item.

- 1) Lou Delaney - Lucky Lou's – Unfair that they are the only area in town that has to pay to park for businesses. The increase is a major increase. Should have free two hour parking like the other businesses in town.
- 2) Kim McKibben – 1306 W. Hickory - Owns two businesses – meter increase is detrimental. Unfair to pay for parking for business. Some of her customers do not have smart phones.
- 3) Brent Erskin – 1314 W. Hickory – opposed – meter too high
- 4) Paul Meltzer – 1914 W. Oak – running for City Council for this area. What is the goal for the Fry Street area. Want Fry Street to be supported much like the downtown area.
- 5) Matt Quenette – 321 W. Hickory – too high meter – could cause people to drive when they may not normally drive because they do not want to get a parking ticket

Nelson then stated that staff would like to move forward with having UNT to enforce the Central Avenue street segment.

The commissioners then discussed having two hour free parking or another option, Monday - Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm no charge after 5:00PM. No charge on the weekends.
Nelson added he would look at these options.

Commissioner Hennen asked about the small area plan and parking area that may be impacted. Nelson will check with the planners on this.

Deshmukh answered that the small area plan and planning is looking for a consultant to develop the plan. This will look at parking and traffic around UNT. A long term plan will be looked at but no decisions have been made.

Commissioner Robinson stated that meters could be reinstated later if need be. Deshmukh agreed.

Commissioner Owen stated he doesn't believe there is enough information to make a recommendation.

This item was tabled and will talk about this item at the next meeting which is June 5. This will also give time for outreach to the community.

4) **Receive a report, hold a discussion and provide direction relating to a no parking any time restriction on the south side of Hickory Street from Avenue B to Avenue A.**

Pritam Deshmukh talked about this item regarding the removal of parking to install bike lane along this area to complete the Bike Plan that was adopted in 2012. There are bike lanes all along Hickory Street, this would complete the segment.

There are three different utility projects along Hickory Street to Carroll Blvd. As part of that project the street department will come in and take out the meter parking and re-stripe bike lanes.

Since 2009 was a long time ago, this would be beneficial to talk to the businesses and have a public meeting regarding this plan.

There are two options and staff would like to move forward with implementing bike lanes on this segment of Hickory.

There are citizens that are here to talk about this item.

- 1) Kim McKibbin - 1306 W. Hickory – owns two businesses – if you remove parking that his her only business parking. Not in favor of removing parking for bike lane. Need to compromise.
- 2) Brent Erskin – 1314 W. Hickory – not in favor of removing parking. Taking away parking when businesses are being denied because of lack of parking seems like an attack.
- 3) Paul Meltzer – 1914 W. Oak - possible compromise – not against bike lanes if you don't remove parking for places that is a destination

Chair Campbell asked if a bike lane can be added without taking away parking. Deshmukh stated only with sharrows, which is an option. The amount of vehicles that park and travel may be a safety concern.

Commissioner Robinson asked if there is any count data for the shared bike lanes that are on east Hickory and Oak. Julie Anderson answered there have been no bike counts in this area. Bike lanes and sharrows are used on different facilities and staff would like a bike lane in this area.

- 4) Matt Quenette – 321 W. Hickory - feels like Fry Street is being penalized - sharrow should work. Not in favor of removing parking.

Commissioner Hennen asked if the bike lane could move over to UNT property, has that been explored at all. Deshmukh answered that has not been talked about, not sure how open they would be to that. That can be asked.

Commissioner Hennen believes that the bike lane should be added for connectivity and the parking should be removed for safety reasons.

Commissioner Robinson is in favor of leaving the parking in place.

The citizens asked about using Ave B to Mulberry that is within UNT. Anderson answered she and Noreen Housewright will take a look at that suggestion.

This item will be brought back in June to explore more options.

5) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and make a recommendation to City Council to update speed limits on FM1830 from Sanders Road to the Southern City Limits.

Pritam Deshmukh introduced this item and stated that traffic has increased south of Sanders Road. A speed survey was conducted and the 85th percentile of the traffic is what determines the rate of speed. Based on the survey the speed has decreased. It is currently posted at 55 MPH, but TxDOT wants to lower to 50 MPH.

Commissioner Hennen motioned to approve with a second by Commissioner Owen, vote 4-0.

6) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and make a recommendation to City Council to update speed limits on US377 from Acme Road to the Southern City Limits.

Pritam Deshmukh stated that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently conducted a speed study (attached) to determine the 85th percentile speed along the segment of Fort Worth Drive (US 377) from Lindsey Street to South/Westerly City limits. Based on the results of the study, TxDOT recommends the following speed limits along various segments of Fort Worth Drive (US 377) between Lindsey Street and South/Westerly City limits.

From Lindsey Street to IH 35 E Southbound Frontage Road	35 mph
From IH 35 E Southbound Frontage Road to 550 feet north of Massey Road	40 mph
From 550 feet north of Massey Road to 250 feet south of Country Club Drive/FM 1830	50 mph
From 250 feet south of Country Club Drive/FM 1830 to South/Westerly City limits	55 mph

Commissioner Hennen motioned to approve with a second by Commissioner Owen, vote 4-0.

7) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and make a recommendation to City Council to update speed limits on FM2181 from Interstate 35 E to the Southern City Limits.

Pritam Deshmukh stated Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently conducted a speed study (attached) to determine the 85th percentile speed along the segment of Teasley Lane (FM 2181) between IH 35 E Southbound Frontage Road and the South/Easterly City limits. Based on the results of the study, TxDOT recommends the following speed limits along various segments of Teasley Lane (FM 2181) between IH 35 E Southbound Frontage Road and the South/Easterly City limits.

From IH 35 E Southbound Frontage Road to Savannah Trail	35 mph
From Savannah Trail to 500 feet West of Pennsylvania Drive	45 mph
From 500 feet West of Pennsylvania Drive to Lillian Miller Parkway	40 mph
From Wind River Lane to South/Easterly City limits	45 mph

Commissioner Hennen asked if this can be lowered any. Deshmukh answered the problem would be the curve to the west. There was discussion regarding this item.

Commissioner Hennen motioned to approve with a second by Commissioner Campbell, vote 4-0.

2) Receive training from Legal regarding meeting rules that impact to the Traffic Safety Commission.

Trey Lansford stated that is a rule to have an attorney liaison at all commission meetings. Staff asked Lansford to give a short training on the open meetings act.

Lansford talked about the Texas Open Meetings Act ("TOMA"). The definition is "[E]very regular, special, or called meeting or session of every governmental body shall be open to the public...." Tex.Gov'tCode§551.002

The requirements under the TOMA are mandatory for every governmental body.

The public has a statutory right to observe its government in action.

Governmental body includes:

The City Council;

A deliberative body with rule making or quasi-judicial power that is classified as a department, agency or political subdivision of a municipality (e.g., housing authority); and

The governing board of a special district created by law.

The TOMA does not apply to a purely advisory body. This does apply because that was deemed necessary by our City Council.

Exceptions include:

Planning & Zoning Commissions

State Nursing Advisory Committee

To trigger the TOMA provisions, there must be:

A quorum of members of a gov't body; AND Public business that the gov't body has authority to supervise or oversee is deliberated or discussed.

"Deliberate" or "Discuss" includes:

Receiving information from; or Giving information to; or asking questions of; or Receiving questions from any 3rd party, including gov't employees.

This can be for either a meeting in which the gov't body participates OR for which the gov't body is responsible.

A gov't body may receive information from a member of its body or from a staff member without prior notice if the information is related to an "item of community interest."

An "item of community interest" includes:

(1) expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence;

(2) information regarding holiday schedules;

(3) an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary recognition for purposes of this subdivision;

- (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body;
- (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the political subdivision; and
- (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the political subdivision that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Lansford continued explaining the TOMA that applies to the Traffic Safety Commission.

8) Staff Reports

a) Matrix

Remove items 3 and 8

- 9) Under Section 551.042 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, respond to inquiries from the Mobility Committee of the Denton City Council, Traffic Safety Commission or the public with specific factual information or recitation of policy, or accept a proposal to place the matter on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

AND

Under Section 551.0415 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, provide reports about items of community interest regarding which no action will be taken, to include: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; or an announcement involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Hennen – Hickory Street - Fry Street to Welch Speed Limit

- 10) Adjournment: **7:10pm**