

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Meeting of: February 17, 2009
7:30 AM, Leawood City Hall Main Conference Room

Committee Members in attendance:

John Burge
Julie Cain, Councilmember Ward 4
Ken Conrad
Mike Gill, Chair and Councilmember Ward 3
Jon Grams
Marsha Monica
Gregory Peppes, Councilmember Ward 1
Kip Strauss
Sherman Titens

Committee Members absent:

Michael DeMent

Staff in Attendance:

Mayor Peggy J. Dunn and guest Elizabeth Weesner (6th grader),
Joe Johnson, David Ley, Troy Rettig, Karen Rust, Julie Stasi

Guests:

David Johnson, 12729 Mohawk Circle, Leawood, KS 66209
Melvin Smith, (address unknown) Kansas City Missouri Resident

- Chair Gill called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.
- **The first item on the agenda was to review the previous meeting minutes.** Committee Member Burge made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2008, committee meeting. Committee Member Jon Grams seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- **The second item on the agenda: Request for an audio component to traffic signals at the intersection of 103rd and State Line Road.** Staff advised they had received a request for traffic signals to be modified with audio components to assist a pedestrian that is visually impaired.

Staff explained the types of audio indicators that are available and their approximate cost of \$5,000 for each direction crossed and then another \$5,000 for installation. Staff explained they were thinking of three corners of 103rd & State Line Road should be adjusted. These would be the corners on the Northeast, the Southeast and the Southwest corner of 103rd & State Line Road. City Engineer David Ley said Overland Park has three signalized intersections with the pedestrian audio indicators in their city. Estimates with installation for these devices are approximately \$15,000.

Guest Melvin Smith advised he uses the intersection of 103rd & Stateline everyday to get to work, along with several other impaired people that he knows. Bus transportation that is available on the Missouri side is mostly why more

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impaired people live in Missouri, as it is more difficult to get around in Kansas. With traffic and congestion, it is hard, even for his guide dog sometimes to get across the street. Mr. Smith said it was very important for him to have this device installed.

Committee discussion.

Chair Gill said in his travels to foreign countries he appreciates the audio signals and directions given and is really surprised that we do not have any here.

Marsha Monica thought it would be a great public safety feature to have.

Greg Peppes said he appreciated Mr. Smith's comments, however could not support this for a Missouri resident and felt the need to support his Kansas constituents.

Mr. Smith knows Kansas City streets and said their Public Works Dept has recently installed lights of this nature at 75th & Prospect in 2002, 75th & Wornall, 69th & Holmes, 47th & J.C. Nichols Parkway, 101st Terrace & Wornall. When he approached KCMO about a light at 103rd & Stateline Road, they referred him to Leawood and said that those lights are Kansas lights. Mr. Smith and his guide dog use this intersection 5 to 10 times per week to get to his job.

Joe Johnson did advise that almost the entire intersection is in Leawood. Only a small portion by the gas station is in Missouri at 103rd & State Line Road. Mr. Johnson advised currently there are no sidewalks on State Line Road north of 103rd. Mr. Johnson advised Leawood did not have any such lights; although none had been requested. When we receive a request such as this, we bring it to the Council to be reviewed by the appropriate committee.

Marsha Monica made a motion in favor of this request for an audible signal light at 103rd & State Line Road and forward to the City Council to review and see if funding sources are available for this expense.

John Burge seconded the motion.

All were in favor of the Motion. Motion passed.

▪ **The third item on the agenda was to discuss the school speed zone on 133rd Street and Mission Road.**

A request has been made for the City to install a school speed zone on 133rd Street for the Mission Trail Middle School. The speed zone would reduce the speed from 35 mph to 20 mph during designated times. The request also asks that the existing school zone on Mission be modified, moving the north bound flashing light to the south side of 133rd street.

Mr. David Johnson, a nearby resident was in attendance and gave a description of the traffic at the school when parents drop off and pick up and the congestion that occurs. One of the problems is on the school site and their circulation which spills over and stacks onto Mission Road.

Committee member Cain advised the traffic report was totally opposite of what some of the school had directed the students to do. They did not want children running across the parking lots to and from the cars. Everything happens within 10 minutes.

David Ley met with the school district back in July about their traffic concerns.

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Marsha Monica made a motion to the City Council that signs and lights be installed on 133rd Street and that this school zone issue be a priority. Sherman Titens seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Chair Gill directed the group to talk about the second half of this item.

Staff Member Johnson talked about the Mission Road lights with the 133rd Street school zone, we have to relocate the existing lights that are there. Mr. Johnson explained that for north bound we need to move them to the south side of 133rd street for north bound traffic on Mission Road. This is the least expensive option to do. We do not have the ability to program these lights and KCPL is called when we want the power on and blinking. KCPL is called when we want the power off. The City is charged a monthly lease rate for these warning lights. There is about a \$1,000 charge to relocate the lights and then we have our monthly lease rate we pay. His thought is that if we are going to do this, to replace the lights with updated solar powered lights that are programmable so we have control over them and we do not have to involve KCP&L any more. We are going to have to move the lights anyway. The City will have a cost, whether it is to have KCP&L move the existing lights and continue with the lease payments or pay to install new solar powered lights. If we install the new lights we have the one time cost and then no additional monthly costs.

Currently we are probably paying about \$100 per month lease payments and have been paying that since the lights were installed and will continue until the lights are removed. This way, there will be a one time payment, of \$15,000 to \$16,000.00 to install the new lights. KCP&L is going to have to relocate the lights and then run power from either a transformer or off the pole. We have the expense to pay KCPL to do that. My guess is \$1500 to \$2000 a light. The street signs would be made and installed by city staff.

If we're looking at Mission Road only we've got the cost of 3 to 4 thousand dollars to KCPL and a cost of \$16,000 to \$20,000 for brand new lights and we eliminate our monthly lease rate payment. .

David Ley advised that the cities surrounding Leawood normally do not enter into lease agreements anymore. OP does not do it, Prairie Village does not do it anymore, KCMO ended up buying all their leased lights.

Marsha Monica asked if we could buy them from KCPL.

David Ley said we have to relocate them, and they are really not worth much.

Joe Johnson said we have to do something; lease or buy them.

Chair Gill said personally he didn't think the committee should get that involved his thought was that should come from our recommendation.

Discussion by the committee.

Marsha Monica made a motion that the lights on Mission Road be relocated in accordance to the new standards. Recommendation is also for the City's Finance Department to work with Joe to make what they think the best recommendation is financially from the City's interest in ownership or leasing of the lights themselves. (we either buy or we continue to lease).

Sherman Titens seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

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Regarding Mission Trail and the traffic patterns, the Committee would like discussions initiated with the school district to see if there are better ways to reduce some of the issues that are out there regarding traffic. More communication and dialog is needed with them. We need to work together to see how we can encourage more safety with the children and the parents bringing their children to school.

- **The fourth item on the agenda was to review a request for the reduction of the speed limit on 133RD.**

A request had been made that the City reduces the speed limit along 133rd Street from 35mph to 30mph.

Joe Johnson explained that the primary collector street has a design speed of 40 mph and typically a 40mph design would be posted at 35mph all within adopted design standards. In talking with the Police Department, there also have been no reports of accidents involving pedestrians or any reported incidents where speed was a factor. Similar streets were given in the city with 35mph speeds and it was requested by staff that the speed limit remain at it's posted speed.

Discussion.

Committee did note that signals are scheduled to be installed next year at 133rd & Roe. Also there most likely will be future commercial development that will bring more cars. The school zone issue with the previous topic will help 90% of the speed concerns.

The Committee would like the Council to know that this issue was brought to their attention and it was considered. In the future it may be re-considered. This location should be monitored and revisited however no action is taken or recommended by the committee at this time.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM

Minutes transcribed by

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LEAWOOD PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OLYMPUS FILE DS300039