

**Minutes of the
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**
Meeting held: Wednesday, November 3, 2021
Leawood City Hall-Council Chambers, 7:30 AM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie Cain, Ward 4
Ken Conrad
Chuck Sipple, Ward 3
Jim Rawlings, Ward 2
Abbas Haideri
Marsha Monica

ABSENT:

Lori Ames
Kyle McCawley

Andrew Osman-Committee Chair (Via Zoom)
Christopher White (Via Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT:

David Ley, P.E., Director of Public Works
Brian Scovill, P.E., City Engineer
Kristen Love, Administrative & Contract Supervisor
Abigale Shepherd, Administrative Support Specialist
Brad Robbins, Police Captain

RESIDENTS PRESENT:

Jennifer Burroughs- 3512 W 93rd St
Andrew Legler – Principal of Cure of Ars School
Katy Rocca- Business Manager Cure of Ars Church
Gwenn Venable- 3519 W 93rd St (Via Zoom)

Andrew Osman called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: Review/approve the old business: Approve minutes from October 6, 2021
Public Works Committee Meeting

ACTION: Jim Rawlings- Motioned to approve. Chuck Sipple seconded. Approved. Motion passed.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Review Parking Issues on 93rd Street East of Mission Road during Cure School Drop-off and Pick-up Times and Cure School Parking Lot Queue Issues.

David Ley In August, Public Works installed No Parking signs along westbound 93rd Street. The council requested that Public Works review the parking issue on 93rd St, and also the Cure parking lot. The Police Department flew a drone twice during pickup time to see how the parking lot is working. [Abbas Haideri and Marsha Monica join the meeting] There is a gate that stays closed on the south side of the driveway until 5 minutes before the end of the school day because students are using the gym and the playground. Based on the 2 videos, this is what is believed to be the cause of the backup onto Mission Rd. Once the gate is opened, it takes about 5 minutes for the cars to get off of Mission Rd.

--Drone video is shown--

David Ley Another issue is inattentive driving within the parking lot and the queue is backed up to 95th St. There are 3 locations that they do pickups: the double queue by the church, one on the east side, and one on the west sides of the school.

Chuck Sipple asks if there have been any accidents on Mission Rd because of the queue. The Police Officer says that there hasn't been.

Abbas Haideri asks if there is a reason why the gate stays closed until 5 minutes before school lets out.

Andrew Legler The gate stays closed for safety reasons; parents can only enter the building through the front doors, and because students are utilizing the playground for recess up until 5 minutes before school lets out. One of the suggestions is to open that gate 5 minutes earlier and that is a resolution that would be easy to explore and implement. The double line on the east side is for the older students [4th-8th grade], the double line on the east side of the school are for K-4th grade, preschool students get picked up in the back of the school. There are almost 770 students. There is a possibility to move the students who are dismissed in the front of the building to the back of the building and create a double line back there. Those two options would alleviate the backup on Mission Rd. Typically the traffic does not back up all the way to 95th St. In the drone footage, you can see that there are a lot of open parking spots, but there are more cars than spots, so having parents use those spots is not a feasible resolution.

Chuck Sipple Does the weather affect the queue? On rainy or snowy days, do parents queue more? Andrew Legler Yes. We have less walker or bikers on snowy or rainy days. There are students that are picked up in the Ranch Mart parking lot and also going over to the west side of Mission and getting picked up in the Country Club Bank parking lot. The biggest challenge is the exit on the north side of the church and school does not have a traffic light. Cars get bottlenecked because they can't get out of the parking lot, so if they can't get out, they can't get in. There are currently crossing guards, but they do not help with cars exiting.

Chris White Do all the students get released at the same time? Andrew Legler Yes, all students are dismissed at 3:30. Chris White Have you considered staggering the dismissal times? Andrew Legler It's been discussed, but there are many families with children in different grades. That would then make the parents wait 10, 20 minutes between pick-ups. Also, the state requires students to be in school for a certain amount of time.

Andrew Osman Does Cure have a designated staff member to move along the line? Andrew Legler There are not staff members specifically assigned to traffic. They are assigned certain locations to help students exit the building. Andrew Osman After church, there is typically a police officer letting cars onto Mission Rd. Do you have that? Andrew Legler No, we don't have that. Andrew Osman At Barstow, parents parking in parking spots. The parking lot here is largely vacant. Have you considered having the parents park in those spots? Andrew Legler There are more cars than spaces available. Safety is a concern; getting students safely through the parking lot. Assigned times for parents to exit the parking lot would also have to happen. Having almost 800 students walking around a parking lot is a safety concern.

Jim Rawlings recommends that the chain be taken down sooner. Also recommends staggering the pick-up times because the parents seem to be well disciplined on the lines. Asks if most cars existing turn right out of the parking lot. Andrew Legler Last year when there were construction projects along Mission Rd, all of the cars were forced to turn right for a period of time. This caused a significant amount of traffic going through the east and west side of 93rd's neighborhoods. The left turn is what bottlenecks traffic because there is no assistance in getting out.

Marsha Monica asks what the max number of students the school could have. Andrew Legler 830 students. Marsha Monica asks if there is some sort of traffic signal that could be used to help with traffic. David Ley That request has come up, but it would create even more queueing issues. If you put a traffic signal in, you would have to remove the pedestrian crossing. Marsha Monica asks if staggering release times would cause the parents to queue back on 93rd while waiting to pick up the next student. Abbas Haideri Looking at how Prairie Star Elementary on 143rd & Mission might be a good idea to see how they handle the traffic. Ken Conrad asks if Prairie Village has issues with parking on the east side of 93rd St. Andrew Legler Yes, they do.

David Ley Staff doesn't need to review what Cure decides to do to help alleviate the backup issues, but we can come back in February again to talk about it. The City's main goal is to get as many vehicles into the parking lot and eliminate the parking on 93rd St. Chuck Sipple asks if the parents think this is an issue. Andrew Legler Yes, the parents would say it's an issue and it needs to be addressed. This has been an issue for a long time, and the parents understand that because we're landlocked, we just don't have as many options. Julie Cain this discussion will be revisited in the committee meeting on February 2, 2022.

David Ley moves onto the discussion of parking on 93rd and shows a video of cars lining up on 93rd for pick-ups. Permanent No Parking signs have been installed on the street, and these have specific times on them. The first day they were installed happened to be an early release day, so the signs weren't relevant. There are 4 early release days a year, but it becomes a nightmare when people are parked on both sides of the street for those 15-20 minutes. By restricting parking on one side, it allows for emergency vehicles to pass through. As far as Public Works is concerned, the signs have accomplished exactly what they were intended to do. They have pushed the parking down to other streets, but none of these residents have called to complain about the issue. Julie Cain asks if there is a way to send notice to the residents so they know about the Feb. 2nd meeting. David Ley says that a letter will be sent out.

Jennifer Burroughs 3512 W 93rd St. Has 3 children currently Cure School. There was some confusion on the first day of school with the No Parking signs, but the parents have seemed to get used to it. The issue is that the 3 kids walk to school every day and still have to cross traffic on 93rd to get into the driveway, and when the street is completely open, cars fly down it. She would like the City to consider speed tables to make people slow down. The other issue is the fence that's on the corner of Mission Rd. It makes it almost impossible to see southbound traffic coming north on Mission Rd. You have to pull past the crosswalk in order to see the cars, even when you want to make a right hand turn. Overall the solution seems to be working. Julie Cain asks about the fence. David Ley The property owner went through BZA to get approval for the fence and Public Works has gone out to take measures to make sure it meets the required sight distance for a 35 MPH roadway. It's close, but it does meet the requirements. The stop bar that you pull up to Mission Rd does stop you back further than where you actually measure the sight distance. We are looking to relocate the stop bar closer to Mission Rd.

Gwenn Venable 3519 W 93rd St. We put up the fence to keep the children out of our driveway. We did it to protect our liability. The fence isn't the issue. The issue is the 20-25 parents that choose to park on 93rd St. It does create a chaotic situation, an unpredictable behavior for the children. The problem was moved from one side of the street to the other. Home owners can't see backing out of their driveways. Thankfully I can pull forward out of my driveway. There is a video that the City took that shows people coming eastbound down 93rd St and cars that are turning around in driveways can't see them coming or the children in the street. Cure doesn't want the liability of the safety of kids in the parking lots, so they have pushed it onto the public. I worry about the kids coming down the street. The majority of parents and parishioners have obeyed the policy that Cure has put in place, but there are 20-25 parents who decided they don't want to wait in the Cure queue, but they will wait the 20 minutes on 93rd St. I've videotaped the amount of time it takes for people to get out of the Cure parking lot and it's 2-3 minutes. Cure

has multiple functions and the parents park in the parking lot, so if this is really about safety, Cure can use the parking lot. The majority of neighbors don't let their children out between 3-3:45 because of all the traffic. Walking along Mission Rd isn't very safe either. The neighbors don't feel like they're being heard. I feel like it's a problem that Cure needs to find an answer to. I have to schedule my business and medical appointments around the traffic.

Julie Cain We appreciate your input and make sure to have February 2nd on your calendar.

Abbas Haideri asks if the people parking on the 93rd are doing so because it's easier for carpooling.

Jennifer Burroughs I've never had an issue pulling out of my driveway, and it seems like the cars there are either carpooling or have a lot of kids. It's become a tense issue with some neighbors, but it's really only 2 houses that have a problem with it. It's truly not a big deal. I think the solution has worked well.

Julie Cain We appreciate the conversation and input. There is rarely a situation where we can make 100% of people happy, but we try our best. Cure- we appreciate your responsiveness.

David Ley It was brought up that on street parking acts as a form of traffic control and that is true. Julie Cain We can't stop anyone from not using the queues at Cure; it's their right to choose not to. The procedure is in place and it's working. Thank you to Cure, the residents, the staff, and the police.

David Ley The next Public Works Committee Meeting is Dec 1.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:01 AM.

Minutes report submitted by: Kristen Love, Leawood Public Works Department