



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes - Final

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Sq Dr NE
Blaine MN 55449

Traffic Commission

The Traffic Commission is an advisory body to the City Council. The Commission's function is to review neighborhood traffic concerns on local streets, define issues, review alternatives and cost, hold neighborhood informational/public hearings and make recommendations to the City Council. For each item the Commission will receive reports prepared by City staff, hold neighborhood information hearings and take comment as needed and discuss and act on each issue/concern. The City Council will make all final decisions on these matters.

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call To Order

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He read from a statement on the agenda regarding the role and responsibilities of the Traffic Commission.

2. Roll Call

Staff Present: City Engineer Dan Schluender

Chair Haas introduced Dan Schluender, new City Engineer. Mr. Schluender replaces former City Engineer Jean Keely, who recently retired. Chair Haas welcomed City Engineer Schluender to the Traffic Commission meeting.

Present: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

Absent: 2 - Hill, and Mahmudi

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1 [MIN 18-32](#)

JUNE 5, 2018 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Skarich to approve the minutes of June 5, 2018, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Jeff Blaha, 1242 - 99th Court NE, stated he attended the Traffic Commission's June 2018 meeting to raise the issue of traffic and noise on 99th Avenue near the new Harley Davidson dealership.

Chair Haas stated this is an Agenda Item that will be addressed at tonight's meeting.

Tim Schue, 136 121st Avenue NE, asked about the City's plans to complete the 121st Avenue extension at Jefferson Street, and the addition of a grocery store at that location. He stated residents are concerned about the amount of traffic that a new grocery store will generate, and the 121st Avenue extension plans are unclear.

Mr. Schue stated the grocery store proposal includes a traffic study showing traffic counts that are lower than traffic counts in a 2018 traffic study completed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). He added MnDOT's traffic study showed 1700 vehicles east of 7th Street, and 1950 vehicles west of 7th Street. He noted the proposal traffic study completed at a different time of year, which is important as a nearby park contributes to higher levels of traffic and parking.

Mr. Schue asked whether an additional traffic study could be completed by the City to provide more accurate traffic data. He added residents are also concerned about the speed of traffic near the elementary school, and a reduced speed zone should be considered at that location, as well as signage to increase driver awareness.

Chair Haas stated he believes this issue should be addressed by the Planning Commission. City Engineer Schluender agreed, adding this issue will be reviewed at the Planning Commission's September 11, 2018, meeting, which he invited Mr. Schue to attend.

Janine Schimmelman, 3147 94th Lane, stated she lives near the intersection of 95th Avenue and Radisson Road, near the Anoka County Airport. She added there has been an increase in large truck traffic, and many trucks use their "Jake brake". She noted she and other residents have talked with City staff regarding traffic enforcement.

Chair Haas requested that City Staff consider this issue for possible review at a future Planning Commission meeting. City Engineer Schluender stated the City has a noise ordinance, and use of compression release brakes is prohibited. He added appropriate signage was installed in the Radisson Road right-of-way by Anoka County. He noted City Staff will review this corridor and signage locations.

Laura Thurston, 1068 89th Avenue NE, expressed concern regarding an increase in traffic speeds, traffic volume and littering on 89th Avenue NE. She asked whether the City would consider installation of new signage to remind drivers to slow down. Sergeant Jeff Warner agreed to review this issue.

Ms. Thurston asked whether a study has been done regarding how long it takes vehicles to access Highway 65 during high traffic volume time periods.

City Engineer Schluender stated there have been numerous signal studies in recent years. He added a new study is planned to start soon to review intersections on Highway 65 from County Road 10 in Spring Lake Park to Viking Boulevard in East Bethel. He noted the corridor's intersections are beyond capacity in terms of traffic counts, and mitigation measures are required to increase safety and efficiency.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wold to adopt the September 4, 2018, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

6. Public Hearings/Comments

None.

None.

7 Previous Business

7.1 Update on June 5, 2018 Open Forum - Resident concerns of Motorcycle Noise on 99th Avenue

City Engineer Schluender stated, at the request of the Traffic Commission, the Police Department monitored decibel levels on 99th Avenue on July 14 and 15, 2018, which ranged from 45-81 decibels. He added this is typical of an urban area with an increased traffic volume due to a new retailer.

Jeff Blaha, 1242 99th Court NE, asked where the testing is done. Sergeant Warner stated he is unsure of the exact location but the testing was focused on the area near Mr. Blaha's address.

Mr. Blaha stated July 15, 2018 was a Sunday, and the Harley Davidson store is closed on Sundays. Sergeant Warner stated that date was chosen as motorcycle rides are typically scheduled from the Harley Davidson store on Sundays. Mr.

Blaha stated there was no motorcycle ride on July 15, 2018.

Mr. Blaha asked whether the study was completed by reserve officers. Sergeant Warner stated the officers in question are Community Service Officers.

Mr. Blaha played an audio of motorcycle noise that was recorded on his patio. Sergeant Warner agreed to review the noise levels on 99th Avenue again. Mr. Blaha requested that the study be undertaken at 99th Avenue and Buchanan Street NE.

Sergeant Warner asked whether certain days of the week are worse than others. Mr. Blaha stated noise levels are high on Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays.

Mr. Blaha stated Minnesota State law prevents the modification of exhaust systems on motorcycles and cars. He offered to provide a copy of the Statute for the Traffic Commission's review. Sergeant Warner stated he is aware of this Statute.

Sergeant Warner stated noise levels can be measured at this location on two separate upcoming weekends, and he would report the findings back to the Traffic Commission at their September 11, 2018, meeting.

Mary Looyen, 1288 - 99th Court NE, stated she is irritated and frustrated by the loud motorcycles on 99th Avenue that are going to the Harley Davidson store. She added she feels that they rev their engines and make more noise deliberately because of the residents who live along 99th Avenue.

City Engineer Schluender stated residents should leave their contact information with City staff if they wish to receive the noise level test results.

Discussed.

7.2 Resident e-mail on 121st Avenue Striping west of Sunset Avenue

City Engineer Schluender stated a traffic study was done on 121st Avenue as requested by the Traffic Commission. He added striping was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council, and the work was completed. He noted City Staff received a resident complaint via email that the striping has caused the speed of traffic to increase.

City Engineer Schluender stated City Staff recommends maintaining the striping for now, and monitoring speeds. He added additional measures can be considered if this continues to be an issue.

Informational; no action required.

7.3 Update on November 8, 2017 Open Forum - Resident Concerns of Speeding on 121st Avenue east of Aberdeen Street

City Engineer Schluender stated the Police Department has been collecting data since November 2017 as well as conducting speed monitoring.

Sergeant Warner stated the 1600 block of 121st Avenue NE was a targeted enforcement zone from January 1 - June 30, 2018. He added a total of 20.25 hours were spent at this location, with a total of 19 vehicles stopped, with 4 tickets issued and 16 warnings. He noted some vehicles had more than 1 warning.

Informational; no action required.

7.4 Resident Complaints of Speeding on Harpers Street North of 125th Avenue

City Engineer Schluender stated there has been an ongoing issue at this location with construction activity and traffic. Since the Traffic Commissions last meeting, the Traffic Enforcement unit has used the speed trailer and traffic counting tubes at this location, and both showed 85th percentiles between 32-35 mph. He added this has been added to the Engineering Department's monthly calendar so that it will remain active.

Sergeant Warner stated 14 vehicles were stopped on Harper Street from January 1 - June 30, 2018, with 8.25 hours resulting in 8 citations, 1 DWI arrest and 6 warnings.

City Engineer Schluender this will remain on the Engineering Department's list of enforcement areas to be monitored.

Informational; no action required.

8. New Business

8.1 Introduce Sgt. Jeff Warner - Newly assigned to Traffic Commission

Chair introduced Police Sergeant Jeff Warner and invited him to address the Commission. Sergeant Warner stated he has worked for the City of Blaine for almost 24 years. He has been actively involved in Anoka County's TZD (Toward Zero Deaths) program, coordinating the project County-wide since 2006. He noted traffic safety is a passion for him in his work with the Blaine Police Department, and he hopes he can assist with resolving traffic issues.

Informational; no action required.

8.1-1 [TC 18-06](#)

PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CONTROL ON XYLITE STREET
AT 91ST AVENUE AND 93RD LANE

City Engineer Schluender stated City Staff received a petition for traffic controls on Xylite Street NE between Rice Creek Parkway and 95th Avenue NE. He added this unique neighborhood has had many traffic enforcement issues in recent years, as Rice Creek Parkway and Xylite Street NE are both main access points bringing heavy commercial/industrial traffic through the residential neighborhood.

A neighborhood petition has been submitted related to Xylite Street NE, requesting traffic controls and posting of enforced weight restrictions that would potentially re-direct commercial traffic to Rice Creek Parkway. The petition requests additional speed enforcement and signage as well as stop signs and crosswalks at 91st Avenue NE and 93rd Avenue NE. The Police Department has received traffic count data from its new traffic counting device, which has not yet been reviewed.

City Engineer Schluender stated road tube speed counters were placed on Xylite Street NE, and the 85th percentile - the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles is travelling - has increased to 37 miles per hour (mph). City Engineer Schluender stated City Staff will review this data for presentation at the Traffic Commission's next meeting. He added City Staff recommends that the Traffic Commission order two intersection studies to be performed in-house, and request a stop sign warrant study for the intersections of Xylite Street NE at 91st Avenue NE and 93rd Avenue NE.

City Engineer Schluender requested that the Police Department put this request on their calendar as an area of speed enforcement focus, and use the weight scales unit to check weight loads when it is available for use by the City.

City Engineer Schluender stated, as an observation, that traffic enforcement improvements focused on either Xylite Street NE or Rice Creek Parkway result in a shift in traffic issues to the other street. He stressed that it may be necessary to review the bigger picture in this neighborhood. He requested that the Police Department increase traffic enforcement efforts.

Bob Erck, 9180 Xylite Street NE, stated he collected signatures and submitted the petition to try to curtail the commercial traffic that uses Xylite Street NE and exceeds the speed limit. He stressed the importance of being proactive at increasing safety awareness and saving lives. He added that Rice Creek Parkway is an MSA Road, and should be taking the heavier traffic. He noted stop signs would greatly reduce the amount of truck traffic on Xylite Street NE.

City Engineer Schluender recommended that the Traffic Commission request a Public Hearing on this issue at its September 11, 2018, meeting. He added residents will receive notice of this hearing.

Chair Haas requested that City Staff contact local commercial businesses whose trucks use these roadways, and communicate the City's concerns and neighborhood complaints regarding traffic speed and volume. City Engineer Schluender agreed.

Janine Schimmelman, 3147 94th Lane, stated commercial trucks use their neighborhood to gain access to Radisson Road and I-35W, for which there is limited access at 35W Service Drive NE. She added this is a serious safety concern for the neighborhood that should be addressed by MnDOT.

City Engineer Schluender stated he has been involved with this traffic situation, and has worked with Anoka County to post a truck route that would direct commercial traffic to 85th Avenue NE/County Road J, Naples Street NE and 95th Avenue NE.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to hold a public hearing at the Traffic Commission's October 2, 2018 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wold. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to authorize traffic studies at the following intersections: Xylite Street NE and 91st Avenue NE and Xylite Street NE and 93rd Avenue NE. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wold. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

9. Other Business

9.-1 [TC 18-05](#)

2018 TRAFFIC UNIT QUARTER 1 & QUARTER 2 SUMMARY

Sergeant Warner stated the Jamar Tech speed monitoring devices are fully functional as of June 30, 2018. He added they have been in use for the past week on Xylite Avenue NE, and the Traffic Enforcement Unit hopes to gather helpful data.

Informational; no action required.

9.2 Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.

City Engineer Schluender stated the Traffic Commission's November 6, 2018, meeting will need to be rescheduled as that is Election Day. He added the January 1, 2019, Traffic Commission meeting should also be rescheduled, or potentially cancelled.

City Engineer Schluender stated the City's Block Party Open House is scheduled for September 26, 2018, from approximately 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Blaine City Hall. He added the Traffic Commission will have a table so Commissioners can be

available to answer residents' questions. He noted Commissioner Wold has already committed to participate in this event.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to reschedule the Traffic Commission's November 6, 2018, meeting, to be held on November 7, 2018. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

Chair Haas stated Commissioners interested in participating in the Block Party Open House should contact City Engineer Schluender. He requested that an email be sent to the Commissioners confirming the date and time. City Engineer Schluender agreed.

The Traffic Commission's next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Skarich to reschedule the Traffic Commission's January 1, 2019, meeting, to be held January 2, 2019. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. The motion passed 5-0.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich

10. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Maschke. The motion passed 5-0. Adjournment time was 7:24 p.m.

Aye: 5 - Haas, Chmielewski, Wold, Maschke, and Skarich