



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Sq Dr NE
Blaine MN 55449

Traffic Commission

This meeting will be a hybrid of Zoom and in-person. The Mayor has signed a declaration allowing members of the council, staff, and the public to attend the meeting remotely via Zoom as has been done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council chambers will have limited seating, with audience chairs being set up at least six feet apart. There will be an overflow area where the meeting can be watched in the Cloverleaf Farms Room, also with chairs set up at least six feet apart. Please note that all visitors to city hall are required to wear a face mask while inside the building.

Public comments may be submitted prior to the meeting by sending an email to PublicComment@BlaineMN.gov or by calling 763-717-2782 no later than Noon on Tuesday May 4. Public comment during the meeting will be taken both remotely via Zoom and in-person in the council chambers. Members of the public can join the Zoom webinar at <https://blainemn.zoom.us/j/96050009906>

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 1, 2020

6:30 PM Council Chambers and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, city meetings will also be held as virtual meetings

1. Call To Order

The Blaine Traffic Commission met in the City Hall Chambers on September 1, 2020. Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this hybrid meeting was held both virtually and in person.

2. Roll Call

Staff Present: City Engineer Dan Schluender, Sergeant Nate Hatanpa,
Communications Manager Ben Hayle

Present: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Chmielewski, and Wifler

3. Approval of Minutes

3.-1

FEBRUARY 4, 2020 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Attachments: [02-04-20 TC](#)

Commissioner Anderson commented on the traffic concerns he had along Ulysses Lane. City Engineer Dan Schluender reported a roundabout had been recommended for this roadway which would greatly assist in slowing and addressing traffic concerns.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wold. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 5-0-2 (Commissioner Wifler and Chair Haas abstained).

Aye: 4 - Wold, Hill, Skarich, and Chmielewski

Abstain: 2 - Haas, and Wifler

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

There were no comments.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Hill to adopt the September 1, 2020, Traffic Commission Meeting Agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chmielewski. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Chmielewski, and Wifler

6. Public Hearings/Comments

None.

7. New Business**7.1 Review resident request for installation of all way Stop condition at the intersection of 7th Street and 106th Lane**

Mr. Schluender reviewed a petition for installation of an all way stop sign condition at the intersection of 7th Street and 106th Lane. He reported staff had received several supporting emails for this request. He reviewed the location of the proposed stop signs noting the complainant was seeing a rise in cut through traffic, as well as a rise in the speed of traffic along 7th Street. He indicated staff collected data along 7th Street from August 17th through August 21st and noted this roadway had 454 cars per day. He stated this volume did not point to a large amount of cut through traffic. He commented the speed of traffic was also

collected and explained the 85% was 29 miles per hour and 30 miles per hour for southbound and northbound traffic. Based on the data that was collected staff would not recommend a stop condition be considered at this intersection. Staff then reviewed the three emails staff received regarding this petition. The emails were received from Amanda Sniker, Ryann Golyer, and Jessie Coon, noting each individual supported a stop condition at this intersection.

Commissioner Wifler asked if 7th Street had a speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Mr. Schluender reported the speed limit along 7th Street and 106th Lane was 30 miles per hour.

Commissioner Wifler stated it would make sense to him to have some sort of control measure in place at this intersection. Mr. Schluender commented in newer developments a stop or yield sign would be considered for 106th Lane, but noted this was an older neighborhood that has existed for 50 plus years without any traffic control measures.

Chair Haas noted generally the cars speeding in the neighborhood were residents of the neighborhood. Sergeant Nate Hatampa reported he did not have data from this specific neighborhood but noted he could request some extra patrols to determine this further.

Chair Haas questioned if the intersection had any sight line concerns. Mr. Schluender reported there were no sight line concerns.

Commissioner Anderson stated there were a number of signs in the neighborhood that posted "Slow-Children At Play" in order to assist in slowing the speed of traffic.

Chair Haas suggested the Commission consider a yield or stop sign at 106th Lane and that the Blaine Police Department do more enforcement in this area.

7.2 Review resident request for installation of crosswalk on Ulysses Street, mid-block between 113th Avenue and 117th Avenue

Mr. Schluender reviewed a petition for installation of a crosswalk on Ulysses Street, mid-block between 113th Avenue and 117th Avenue. He reported the issue before the Commission was to install a crosswalk across Ulysses Street in order to allow pedestrians to reach the commercial developments on the other side of the street. He discussed the City's crosswalk policy and explained a pedestrian ramp with flashing light system was not an option given the expense. It was noted Ulysses Street had approximately 7,500 cars per day and noted the speed limit was 40 miles per hour. Staff commented on the request further and explained staff did not support the mid-block crosswalk but rather that pedestrians be directed to controlled intersections where crosswalks were already in place. He suggested

the Commission take a month to review the crosswalk policy and that action on this item be readdressed in October.

Commissioner Hill reported he was a traffic engineer. He stated he anticipates pedestrians were not going to walk to 117th Avenue in order to reach the commercial development across the street. Mr. Schluender expressed concern with how a precedent could be set if this mid-block crosswalk were approved. He feared that additional mid-block crosswalks would be requested along Ulysses Street. He suggested that if the Commission were to recommend approval of this request that a policy be put in place and that rationale be provided.

Further discussion ensued regarding the site lines along Ulysses Street.

Commissioner Anderson stated the traffic and pedestrian concerns for this area may be compounded once the apartment building fills up. He suggested a 30 miles per hour speed limit be considered for Ulysses Street.

Chair Haas commented this would require a speed study and cautioned this study could lead to an increased speed limit.

Commissioner Chmielewski indicated the only thing the City could do would be to encourage pedestrians to walk to 117th Avenue.

Commissioner Skarich stated he understood pedestrians may still cross the street, but noted the Commission has declined mid-block crosswalks in the past. He recommended the crosswalk policy be further investigated by the Commission in October. Mr. Schluender indicated this was staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Chmielewski discussed how traffic along Ulysses Street would change over time as Highway 65 was addressed. Mr. Schluender stated this was the case.

Chair Haas requested staff reach out to neighboring communities in order to review their crosswalk policies. Mr. Schluender commented he would reach out and make this request.

The consensus of the Commission was to recommend action on this item be postponed to the October Traffic Commission meeting and that the Crosswalk Policy also be reviewed at that time.

7.3 Review resident request for the installation of speed hump on Cloud Drive between Radisson Road and West Lake Boulevard

Mr. Schluender reviewed a petition for the installation of a speed hump on Cloud Drive between Radisson Road and West Lake Boulevard. He explained extensive study was completed in 2013 for this stretch of roadway and the speed was found

to be 33 miles per hour and in 2015 the speed was 32 miles per hour. He indicated 2,000 cars per day use this street. He discussed the City's policy regarding speed humps noting a petition would be required from the neighborhood.

Commissioner Wifler stated a resident approached him regarding this request and he told the resident he would bring this matter before the Commission. He anticipated snow plow drivers were not big fans of speed humps. Mr. Schluender reported this was the case for snow plow drivers and any emergency vehicle. He stated the City takes these requests very seriously and noted the improvement would be assessed to the neighborhood. He indicated he could respond to the resident that made the speed hump request.

Chair Haas discussed the difference between speed humps and speed bumps.

Commissioner Wifler explained he was not a fan of speed humps or speed bumps but noted he wanted to respond to the request that was made of him.

Chair Haas requested staff advise the resident of the process that must be followed for speed humps and allow the resident to determine if they want to go through with the petition process.

8. Other Business

None.

8.1 Patrol Update

Sergeant Hatanpa provided the Commission with an update from the Police Department. He noted the department has been focused on the new paving of Jefferson Street from 113th to Territorial Road. He explained neighbors have been complaining about speeds in this area. He commented his findings from the patrols that had been conducted in this area. He stated another area of concern was 91st Avenue and University Avenue. He indicated the 85% percent for speed in this area was 31 to 34 miles per hour. He reviewed several TZD signs the City would be posting around town to assist with improving pedestrian safety. He reported the department would continue their enforcement efforts along 117th Avenue.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Haas stated the next Traffic Commission was scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

9. Adjournment

Adjournment time was 7:29 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Chmielewski to adjourn the Traffic Commission meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hill. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0.

Aye: 6 - Haas, Wold, Hill, Skarich, Chmielewski, and Wifler