

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
APRIL 16, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Charles Yost; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief Ashley Gonzalez

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, Director of Public Works; Michael Yeosock, Assistant Principal Engineer; Fred Eshraghi, Traffic Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00 p. m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Bob Giolitto came forward. He stated that he is a member of the Norwalk Green Association and St. Paul's on the Green. He stated that he came to a Traffic Authority meeting about two months ago and requested a crosswalk across East Avenue. He stated that they did not receive a reply about a decision. He stated that he found out this afternoon that a decision was made to not put a crosswalk at the location. He stated that they had asked for other alternatives to be discussed if a crosswalk was not possible.

Mr. Giolitto stated that there is not a crosswalk from Morgan Street up to Post Road. People cross the street in that area even though there is no crosswalk.

Mr. Chimento stated that the crosswalk that Mr. Giolitto requested would be half way down the middle of the green. East Avenue is a heavily travelled road with two lanes of traffic in each direction. A crosswalk would stop the traffic on East Avenue. We feel that that is a safety hazard.

Mr. Giolitto stated that they requested a crosswalk from St. Paul's Place across East Avenue. People cross there anyway. If you put in a crosswalk, it might slow down traffic.

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Chimento to contact MR. Giolitto to discuss other alternatives for a course of action at the location. Mayor Rilling stated that a crosswalk may create a false sense of security for people crossing the street, however the cars travel at speeds over 30 mph and it would be wise to look at other alternatives on what we can do there.

Mayor Rilling stated that the stretch of road will be paved. We are waiting for that area to be redesigned before the paving is done.

Mr. Brad Craighead came forward. He stated that he is a member of the Norwalk Green Association. He stated that he supports the crosswalk being installed across East Avenue at St. Paul's. He stated that a

traffic light may be necessary. He stated that he also supports a crosswalk from Knight Street across Wall Street.

Mr. Judd Ailey came forward. He stated that he is a member of the Bike/Walk Commission. He stated that he supports the installation at the intersection of Wall St. and Knight Street. He stated that people are regularly crossing the street at that location. He stated that according to Google Maps, there is a 300 foot sight line. He stated that the plan to redesign the plaza has been around since 2015. He stated that a crosswalk is a small step we can take while we wait for the redesign.

Mr. Allen Weber came forward. He stated that he is the developer of the harbor apartments that were recently completed behind the businesses on Wall Street. He stated that the building should be fully occupied by the end of the month. We will have 80-100 residents. Any safety improvements in the area would be welcome. He stated that he is in favor of slowing the traffic down and installing crosswalks. He stated that he hopes the redesign of the plaza happens in the next year.

Mr. David Westmoreland came forward. He stated that he is the Chairman of the Historical Commission. He stated that one of our overflow parking areas is the City lot off of Main Street. He stated that a crosswalk will help people to safely cross the street.

Mr. Colin Grotheer came forward. He stated that he is a member of the Bike/Walk Commission. He stated that a crosswalk is a much needed improvement. He stated that it is an investment of a minimal amount of money to benefit a large number of residents and businesses. A large number of people cross the street and a crosswalk would improve safety and make it pedestrian friendly.

BUSINESS

1. Approve the minutes of the meeting of Monday, March 19, 2018.

Page 1 Change "Putnum Avenue" to "Putnam Avenue"

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 19, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Approve extending the approved date of closure of N. Water Street from West Avenue to the Metro-North Danbury Line overpass to August 6, 2018.

Mr. Yeosock stated that bad weather has delayed the work on the SoNo Collection. He stated that a request has been made for the closure of N. Water Street from West Avenue to the Metro North Danbury Line overpass for an extra three months.

Mr. Yeosock stated that the existing Pine Street extension detour and related signage has been successful at keeping traffic flowing adequately.

- ** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE EXTENDING THE APPROVED DATE OF CLOSURE OF N. WATER STREET FROM WEST AVENUE TO THE METRO-NORTH DANBURY LINE OVERPASS TO AUGUST 6, 2018.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approve removal of parking on the east side of Day Street from Hanford Place to Elizabeth Street as shown on Sheet 3.3 of the Raymond Street and Day Street Improvement Project.

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE REMOVAL OF PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF DAY STREET FROM HANFORD PLACE TO ELIZABETH STREET AS SHOWN ON SHEET 3.3 OF THE RAYMOND STREET AND DAY STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mr. Yeosock stated that currently, parking is allowed on both sides of Day Street. He stated that the street is narrow, with not much room for cars travelling along the Street. He stated that we are requesting to remove parking from the east side of the street. He stated that we have spoken with the business areas and they are in favor of the change.

- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

1. Chestnut Street – Request to continue one-way from Monroe Street to Henry Street Extension indefinitely.

Mr. Yeosock stated that representatives from Side by Side Charter School have given us positive feedback on the one way traffic pattern on Chestnut Street. He stated that the construction project is nearly finished, and the school is requesting that the one way traffic pattern be made permanent.

Mr. Yeosock stated that keeping the street one-way would cause traffic issues in the area. Mayor Rilling stated that during the construction work, traffic has diverted through the train station parking area. He stated that having traffic flow in that pattern for the long term would not be desirable. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons stated that making the change permanent would impact drivers all year round while the school only operates during parts of the year and only during day time hours. Commissioner Yost stated a comprehensive plan taking into account the school, resident, and business needs should be put together.

2. Wall Street – Request for unprotected crosswalk on Wall Street at Knight Street.

Mr. Chimento stated that the Redevelopment Agency indicated to him that they are moving ahead with the plan to redesign the area. They want to do the work at some point next year. The curb lines would be changed to allow for curbside dining at the restaurants. He stated that they are altering the path of the road in order to slow traffic down.

Mr. Chimento stated that a crosswalk will have to be ADA compliant. New ramps and tactile strips will have to be installed. Parking spaces would also need to be removed. He stated that if the redesign is done next year, any ramps and tactile strips installed now would be ripped out during construction.

Mr. Eshraghi stated that sight lines will be an issue. The crosswalk will be in a blind spot.

3. Project Updates – Wilson Avenue Speed Sign, Roton SRTS, FHWA rescinds ban on RRTBs.

Mr. Yeosock stated that the Wilson Avenue speed sign is working effectively. He stated that the Roton SRTS has started. He stated that the ban of rapidly flashing beacons, which are known as RRTBs, has been rescinded by US DOT and the City can begin using them again.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Rilling adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p. m.

Mayor Rilling announced that the next meeting of the Traffic Authority will be at 4 p. m. on Monday, May 21, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom

Next Meeting 4 PM Monday, May 21, 2018.