

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
December 21, 2020

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Michael Yeosock at myeosock@norwalkct.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Kelly Straniti; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Michael Yeosock, Asst. Director, TMP; Fred Eshraghi, TMP Traffic Engineer

OTHER: John Hanifin, Project Manager, CTDOT Bridge, Rich Bertoli, WSP; Vincent Hines, Redniss & Mead; Neil Olinski, Malone & McBroom

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:01PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020.

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST AVENUE BETWEEN FORT POINT STREET AND WINFIELD STREET FOR WORK ON THE ADVANCED UTILITY PHASE OF THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT AS DETAILED IN THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN PREPARED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Mayor Rilling said that on the letter that was dated in October he did not see any of the issues mentioned that the commission had discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Hanifin said they will be incorporating the comments that were made at the last meeting regarding the night and weekend closures.

Mr. Bertoli provided an overview of what was discussed and said as requested they had reached out to The East Norwalk Neighborhood Association (ENNA) and that a meeting was held last Thursday and the meeting had gone very well. He said they did incorporate the requests to have no weekend closures during the summer months, but will still have weeknight closures but if there is a planned event they would not schedule work during those times. He said the language will be incorporated into the contract.

Commissioner Straniti said at the last meeting the commission also specified that there be no closures on July 4, 2021, and asked if that is included. Mr. Bertoli said “no” but that is already restricted as part of the contract. Commissioner Straniti requested that July 3, 2021, also be added because that is when the fireworks are done. Mr. Bertoli said they will add that to the contract.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST AVENUE BETWEEN FORT POINT STREET AND WINFIELD STREET FOR WORK ON THE ADVANCED UTILITY PHASE OF THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT AS DETAILED IN THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN PREPARED BY THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 2 CROSSWALKS ON BUTLER STREET AS SHOWN ON DRAWING ZSP-1 FOR PINNACLE AT WAYPOINT.

Mr. Hines presented and said the project was previously approved at the Planning & Zoning level in 2017 and is now under new ownership and is going back for an approval of primarily the same and as part of that design it includes two raised crosswalks and that one will be located on Orchard Street and the other on Butler Street. He said they are proposing the raised crosswalks to attract a calming measure between the site and the Stepping Stones and Waypoint and to also provide an extra level of pedestrian safety.

Mayor Rilling said the agenda states approval for two crosswalks on Butler Street. Mr. Hines said they are requesting approval for two raised crosswalks and one will be on Orchard Street and the other on Butler Street, but there is another crosswalk on Butler Street that was requested by DPW but it is a standard crosswalk.

Mayor Rilling asked if there is an error on the agenda. Mr. Yeosock said the two crosswalks both the raised and regular on Butler Street need to be approved and he believes the crosswalk on Orchard Street was approved previously. Mayor Rilling said he does not recall the raised crosswalk on Orchard Street being approved by the Traffic Authority. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons and Commissioner Straniti also said they do not recall the item being approved.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF THE TWO CROSSWALKS ON BUTLER STREET WITH ONE BEING A RAISED CROSSWALK AND A RAISED CROSSWALK ON ORCHARD STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. CONCUR WITH CT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION FOR COLONIAL VILLAGE EXPANSION.

Mr. Yeosock said that staff has contacted the State of Connecticut and it is part of the legislative act that they have to reach out to the local Traffic Authority for concurrence. He said the project was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the only outstanding item is the concurrence of the Traffic Authority with the Office of the State Traffic Administration for this project.

Commissioner Straniti said there was a procedural question which was brought up last month which was why the Traffic Authority has to approve this item because it is not in our prevue, and what is the Traffic Authority being asked to do without looking at an independent traffic study. She also asked if it just includes I-95 or does it also include Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Yeosock said it includes any state road so would be primarily Route 1 (Connecticut Avenue) and the legislative act reads that they reach out to the local Traffic Authority's to be their "eyes and ears" of problems in that area that this project may pose.

Mayor Rilling said that we do not see anything other than the very limited report from Malone & McBroom.

Mr. Olinski said this is a request by the Office of the State Traffic Administration that the local Traffic Authority's weigh in on the project and are in concurrence. He said they did produce a traffic study and specifically analyzed the intersections of West Cedar @ Scribner Avenue and West Cedar Street @ North Taylor Avenue and did not find any impacts at those intersections. He said Route 1 is the next intersection away and their conclusion was would not likely be any impacts there either.

Mayor Rilling said he does not have the report in front of him but recalls it stating that there will be an increase of 25 trips out of the area in the morning peak hours and asked why when there are 69 units. Mr. Olinski stated a typical traffic study looks at peak hours and this was based off of one hour but there will be more cars leaving over the course of the morning.

Commissioner Straniti said she is not comfortable saying this will not have an impact and does not see how even 25 cars going out in the morning would not have an impact on that intersection because 69 units with 132 parking will have an impact on our roads.

Mr. Olinski said the traffic study has been filed with the city and he will send it to the commissioners to review.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked what time frame was used in the traffic study. Mr. Olinski said from 8:00AM to 9:00AM. Commission Collier- Clemmons asked staff how busy those intersections currently are, and what would be the substantial or non- substantial impact on what is already happening there. Mr. Yeosock said Route 1 is not heavily traveled in the mornings so there are generally no issues in the morning.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there is a number that should be considered for a non-substantial impact to the traffic pattern. Mr. Yeosock said it would depend on the type of intersection and the level of service and the level of service still remained acceptable so there was not a substantial impact.

Chief Kulhawik agreed with Commissioner Straniti as to why the state would need concurrence from the Traffic Authority. Mr. Olinski said the state has a check list and having the concurrence from the local Traffic Authority is on that.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO CONCUR WITH CT ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION FOR COLONIAL VILLAGE EXPANSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER STRANITI.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd