

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
February 22, 2021

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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; James Travers, Director, TMP; Garrett Bolella, Asst. Director, TMP
Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, Transportation

OTHERS: Karina Massey, Jacobs Engineering

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:02PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021.

****COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE OF OLD TROLLEY LANE FROM WITCH LANE TO WILSON AVENUE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 7:00AM TO 5:00PM FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REPAIRS TENTATIVELY BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2021

Ms. Massey said she is working with the WPCA on the sanitary sewer improvements project and there is a heavily deteriorated manhole on Old Trolley Way along with an undersized pipe and in order to replace these we will need to close off a portion of Old Trolley Way. She presented the traffic plan and said where the work will be taking place is not in front of anyone's house and we are proposing to close the road from the beginning of the excavation to the end of it and will need to close the road to traffic from Old Trolley Way to Tory Hill Lane and Witch Lane, but will keep alternating traffic and the contractor wanted to make everyone aware that it will cause some delays with having alternating traffic but will at least be able to maintain some kind of traffic flow through the intersection. She said the detour will start at the intersection of Old Trolley Way and Wilson Avenue and will be directed up Wilson Avenue to Witch Lane.

Chief Kulhawik asked if the residents will need to have access. Ms. Massey said the work will not be in front of anyone's house and all the residents in the area will have access to their house.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there will be police officers on site that will allow only residents to enter and exit on Old Trolley Way, and will the residents be apprised of the project. Ms. Massey said "yes" and that notices will go out as soon as there is a concrete date set to begin the project and plan is to have two officers at different locations and they will also be supplemented with three flaggers.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE OF OLD TROLLEY LANE FROM WITCH LANE TO WILSON AVENUE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 7:00AM TO 5:00PM FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS FOR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REPAIRS TENTATIVELY BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. GREGORY BLVD. AT MARVIN ST./FIFTH STREET YIELD SIGN

Mayor Rilling said this was brought as an informational item for a traffic pattern change but was changed without being voted on by the Traffic Authority. He said he has received several complaints from the

neighbors and as he went through the area and looked at it he too had some concerns. He said this traffic pattern had existed for many years and apparently was changed without having a Traffic Authority vote and it is now being described as a roundabout but is more of a rotary.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Travers if he has had an opportunity to look at the new pattern. Mr. Travers said “yes” and he had reviewed it with Mr. Yeosock and he had planned for a paint installation in the spring that would have it function more as a roundabout and he thinks that more markings in the roadway are required for people to have a better understanding. He requested that this be an agenda item for his group to look at for a long term solution because there are some improvements that could be noted around there. He said that consistency will bring a safer motive transportation so yielding upon entering is a standard mode. He said that he believes Mr. Yeosock had presented a diagram of his plans and he can go over them with the commission which may provide some clarity.

Mayor Rilling said that he had requested accident data for the traffic circle and it seems there were 11 accidents in just over four years which were relatively minor in nature, and he has a concern with the yield sign at Fifth Street @ Gregory Boulevard which is very confusing and he does not think there is proper signage. He suggested taking Mr. Travers recommendation and vote to have the rotary returned to its previous standard and have them do a more comprehensive study and present a more detailed plan to the Traffic Authority.

Commissioner Straniti said she agrees and it should go back to the way it was because she was recently in the area and found it to be very confusing so if it does change moving forward there needs to be some clear signage installed.

Commissioner-Clemmons asked when this was changed and if any notices were given to the residents in the area. Mr. Yeosock said that officers were in the area when the work was being done for the change. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the residents were apprised of the change prior to the installation. She said if it is confusing to the Commissioner, Mayor Rilling and to the residents we need to take it back to where it was and start over with some clarity.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE BRINGING THE ROTARY BACK TO ITS PREVIOUS CONDITION WHICH WILL INCLUDE REMOVING THE YIELD SIGNS ON GREGORY BLVD. AND ON MARVIN STREET ENTERING GREGORY BLVD. AND INSTALLING A YIELD SIGN ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ROTARY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE AT FITCH STREET-ROUNDAABOUT CONCEPT PLAN

Mr. Yeosock presented a concept for the possibility of installing a roundabout on Strawberry Hill @ Fitch Street. He said the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association had requested it but it is currently just a concept plan because there is no funding for it at this time.

Mayor Rilling said as a concept he does like the idea of roundabouts when they are properly sized and designed and he sees this as a possible opportunity for that to happen there. He suggested to keep in mind we are an old city and people are used to things being a certain way and when significant changes are being made people need to be made aware and introduced to the new concept because there are currently no roundabouts in the city. He suggested that Mr. Yeosock work with Mr. Travers and Garret to discuss how to improve the area.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons agreed and said that she thinks it will be helpful for the flow of traffic.

Commissioner Straniti said she is open to see how it will work and this is a good intersection to do as a test area. She said she is also interested to hear about the accident data regarding roundabouts.

Mayor Rilling said he would be interested in knowing more about the design concept of the roundabout and that he agrees that the TMP team should work together and present a concept to the Traffic Authority that would be workable. He said he also requested that Mr. Travers along with Mr. Yeosock begin looking at other areas in Norwalk as to where we may take some opportunities to install roundabouts because they do help with the flow of traffic.

Commissioner Straniti asked if installing the roundabout would involve any property takings. Mr. Yeosock said "no" and that there is enough room in that area. He also said that the intersection averaged two accidents per year over the past five years.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd