

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commission 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, TMP; Fred Eshraghi, Traffic Engineer, TMP

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:00PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2021

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2021

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR O'NEILL'S 5K RACE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021.

A representative from the O'Neil's committee said the race was not held last year due to Covid-19, but it is the same route that was used prior to that and has been approved by the Police Department.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR O'NEILL'S 5K RACE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021.

Ms. Tar of the Alzheimer's Association said for the last 10 years the walk has been held at the beach and this is the first year that we have encountered a question about possibly blocking off one of the roads which has never been done in the past. She said over the last five years we have had 1,500 to 2,000 attendees on the walk route and have never had to shut a road down, and as of today we have 684 walkers registered and don't see the need to shut down a part of Canfield Street. She said that three officers are hired and are stationed at the round-a-bout and one at the beach. Chief Kulhawik contacted Sergeant Gulino and she said she had discussed with the organizers that the fact there is such a large number of attendees with no sidewalks she felt it was unsafe to have the road open and the organizers had said they are expecting over 1200 participants, so she has a concern about that. Ms. Tar asked if hiring a fourth officer for traffic control would help. Mayor Rilling suggested the walkers walk behind a police car which might accomplish the safety level that Sergeant Gulino is worried about. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that would be a good compromise and requested that Chief Kulhawik contact Sergeant Gulino to see if that would elevate her concerns. Chief Kulhawik contacted Sergeant Gulino and she said she will work with the organizers of the event to work it out without closing the road.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE ROUTES FOR THE WILLIAM RAVEIS WALK & RIDE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

A representative for event said this is an event that has been held since 2015 and goes through several towns and last year was held virtually due to Covid-19. He said currently we have all the local Traffic Authority approvals from the other five towns the race goes through and there are no changes to the routes.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM THE ROUTES FOR THE WILLIAM RAVEIS WALK & RIDE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE MMRF TEAMS FOR CURES 5K WALK/RUN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021.

Mr. Yeosock said this event has been held in the past and they used variable message signs and will continue to the same this year and is the same route as what has been used in the past. Chief Kulhawik said the Traffic Unit had no issues with the plans.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE MMRF TEAMS FOR CURES 5K WALK/RUN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE LIGHT HOUSE 3 MILE RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE LIGHT HOUSE 3 MILE RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. APPROVE “NO PARKING ANYTIME” ALONG THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE CUL-DE-SAC LOCATED ON RICKEY LANE.

Mr. Eshraghi said there are some issues on Rickey Lane around the inner circle of the cul-de-sac and is creating an issue for emergency vehicles. He said site visits were done at different times of the day and are recommending removing the on-street parking around the circle to provide a safer environment.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE “NO PARKING ANYTIME” ALONG THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE CUL-DE-SAC LOCATED ON RICKEY LANE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE WITH CLIFF STREET AND OAK STREET

Mr. Eshraghi said there are some issues with the pedestrian crossing which goes to the stairs, but everyone parks in front of the stairs which also creates a sight line issue. He said this is the only crosswalk at this location and many site visits were done with the Traffic Supervisor and are recommending an all way stop sign to provide protection in the crosswalk. Mr. Travers said due to the sight line issue he also recommends an all way stop sign.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE WITH CLIFF STREET AND OAK STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. APPROVE A “NO PARKING ANYTIME” ZONE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE FROM ARBOR DRIVE TO CLIFF STREET.

Mr. Eshraghi said this is part of the solution for the intersection on Soundview Avenue because people are parking in the crosswalk and there is not enough room for cars to park on one side of the street and have a car pass. He said staff is recommending that on street parking be removed from one side of the street and moving the center line to the left which will provide enough room for people to park on one side of the street and still allow enough room for vehicles to pass.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A “NO PARKING ANYTIME” ZONE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE FROM ARBOR DRIVE TO CLIFF STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. APPROVE A “NO PARKING ZONE” ON THE NORTHERN SIDE ON SOUNDVIEW AVENUE IN FROM OF 23 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE.

Mr. Eshraghi said this also as part of the solution for the intersection on Soundview Avenue and there are two businesses at this location where the crosswalk is located so staff is recommending a no parking zone to provide a better view for the pedestrians from one side of the street to the other. He said he has sent a letter to the residents and spoke with the business owners and they agreed.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A “NO PARKING ZONE” ON THE NORTHERN SIDE ON SOUNDVIEW AVENUE IN FROM OF 23 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE AT OAK STREET.

Mr. Eshraghi said also as part of the solution for the intersection on Soundview Avenue to provide a crosswalk on the other side of the intersection.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF SOUNDVIEW AVENUE AT OAK STREET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. APPROVE A “NO PARKING DURING PICK-UP (7:30-8:30AM) & DROP OFF (2:30-3:30pm) ZONE ON STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE BETWEEN TIERNEY STREET AND NATHEN HALE SCHOOL DRIVEWAY.

Mr. Eshraghi said this is a request from the police department because parents are having difficulty when dropping off and picking up their kids from the school. He said a site visit was done and are requesting a no parking zone during drop off and pick up times between Tierney Street and Nathan Hale School driveway. Mayor Rilling asked if the residents have been notified. Mr. Eshraghi said he has not yet had a chance to notify them, but they all have driveways, so he doesn't see there being an inconvenience for them.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A “NO PARKING DURING PICK-UP (7:30-8:30AM) & DROP OFF (2:30-3:30pm) ZONE ON STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE BETWEEN TIERNEY STREET AND NATHEN HALE SCHOOL DRIVEWAY.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14. APPROVE A 15 MINUTE PARKING SPOT IN FRONT OF 12 MOTT AVENUE

Mr. Yeosock said that a request was received from the Magner's Funeral Home on Mott Avenue to allow a 15-minute parking space. He said a similar thing was done on East Wall Street and thinks this is a fair request.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE A 15 MINUTE PARKING SPOT IN FRONT OF 12 MOTT AVENUE.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

15. APPROVE THE COMSTOCK HILL AVENUE DETOUR PLAN FOR STATE PROJECT 102-296.

A representative for the project said we plan to do a rehabilitation to the structure and is one of 15 bridges in the state that will be rehabilitated and will need to replace the water membrane which will require the closure of Comstock Hill Road, and there is a planned detour and would like to provide the contractor seven weeks in the summer of 2023 to perform the work. Mr. Yeosock said the residents will be able to get to their homes during the closure. Mayor Rilling asked if the residents have been notified so that they can prepare. The representative said a public information meeting was held in March 2019, where we presented the detour to the public but to his knowledge the residents have not been notified individually, but there is an ongoing project that is at the Route 7 and Route 15 interchange and would be possible to present this through that portal to bring awareness to the project that will begin next spring, and as part of the contract the contractor will be sending notices at least one month prior to the detour. Mayor

Rilling asked if the VMS signs will also be used. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the information regarding the detour should go out as often as possible. Mayor Rilling asked if Waze will be notified of the detour. Mr. Travers requested that Bridgeport Traffic be contacted.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMSTOCK HILL AVENUE DETOUR PLAN FOR STATE PROJECT 102-296.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.’**

16. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING TO CONTACT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF THE ADVISORY SIGNAGE ON STATE ROUTE 136 WILSON AVENUE IN THE VICINITY OF HIGHLAND AVENUE AND BLUFF AVENUE.

Mr. Travers said that a speed radar sign has been installed and the road has a 30MPH speed limit that 85% are coming back with going 28MPH. He said there is a marking plan for the connectivity grant that will provide bike lanes and sharrows through route 136 and when the new pavement markings are installed this will be an added benefit. He said the state did have an advisory speed posted but they have since taken it down, but staff will be doing our own advisory and make a recommendation.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING TO CONTACT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF THE ADVISORY SIGNAGE ON STATE ROUTE 136 WILSON AVENUE IN THE VICINITY OF HIGHLAND AVENUE AND BLUFF AVENUE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Yeosock said the state is looking to replace the signal on Main Avenue @ Union Avenue with a pedestrian countdown indicator.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd