

****MINUTES****
MAYOR'S ADVISORY TRAFFIC COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

The Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission met at the James J. Eagan Center, Room 3, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., with Zach Schneider presiding.

Members present were: Donna Smith-Pupillo (Ward 1), Don Adams (Ward 2), Greg Keil (Ward 4), Teri Reiter (Ward 5), Pete Fischer (Ward 6), Zach Schneider (Ward 7), Dave Clasby (Ward 8) and Kim Redden (Ward 9). Also present were Officer Kiefer, Police Department; Jason Timme, Street Department, and MaryAnn Fitzpatrick, Recording Clerk. Mike Mott (Ward 3) was absent. Resident Steve Gettemeier, 1290 St. Antoine, was also in attendance.

A quorum being present the chair declared the Traffic Commission was in session for the transaction of business.

Minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting were approved as published.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS:

All old business was addressed and dropped from the Agenda at the December 8, 2020 meeting.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS:

**01/21 REQUEST TO ADD STOP SIGNS ON LAFAYETTE AT ST. JOSEPH TO
CREATE A FOUR-WAY STOP INTERSECTION
Denied
Ward 6**

Request was made to add stop signs on Lafayette at St. Joseph to create a four-way stop intersection. Zach Schneider read the e-mail from Councilman Mulcahy, December 18, 2020. Teri Reiter asked Officer Kiefer if there were a lot of accidents at this location and Officer Kiefer said no, there weren't. Teri Reiter said she is not in favor of a stop sign there since there are already too many stop signs in Old Town. She said there are way too many. Pete Fischer said you don't have to stop that many times in between St. Marie and Lindbergh. Zach Schneider said he took a drive over there last week to take a look at it. He said it is the same street that we just spoke about at the last meeting. He said he just wanted to insure that it was the way the ordinance was written. He said it was more or less just a formality. He said the street looks great. He said we just added all these stop signs and crosswalks over there. He said he doesn't see a need for another four-way stop intersection. He said that was his personal feeling and asked if anyone else felt the same way. Pete Fischer said he thinks that the gentleman that brought this to Councilman Mulcahy's attention was just concerned about golf carts. He said if someone is flying down Lafayette and they don't see him and they pull out it could be serious. He said the cross street has to stop. He said he really wouldn't say they are speeding, but you have stop on the smaller street. He said since he has lived here there have been three two-car accidents and a dog got hit at this intersection. He said even so, it doesn't fit the criteria for the reason they want it for. He said he thinks that was the resident's point. He was worried about the golf carts.

Teri Reiter said this is the only intersection between St. Anthony and Lindbergh that you don't have to stop. Pete Fischer said it is also a little better now that the Hertz place is gone. He said they used that street to test drive cars.

Motion was made by Greg Keil to make a recommendation not to add stop signs at Lafayette at St. Joseph since it does not meet any of the criteria of the stop sign warrant. Motion was seconded by Zach Schneider. On the roll call the commission voted:

Donna Smith-Pupillo – yes, Don Adams – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, Zach Schneider – yes, Dave Clasby – yes and Kim Redden – yes. Motion carried. Item 01/21 was dropped from the Agenda.

**02/21 REQUEST TO REPLACE YIELD SIGNS WITH STOP SIGNS ON ST. DENIS AT
AUBUCHON
Approved
Ward 6**

Request was made to replace yield signs with stop signs on St. Denis at Aubuchon. Zach Schneider read the e-mail which actually came from Brian Gettemeier, December 17, 2020. He said he went over there last week and said this is the same situation as what we had discussed at the last meeting with regards to a yield sign we were trying to replace with a stop sign. He said it is a four-way intersection and people just don't pay attention to the yield signs. He said people just run right through them without even paying attention. He said Officer Kiefer mentioned this at the last meeting regarding the yield signs. Officer Kiefer said the yield signs don't require you to stop, they just require you to slow down and safely clear the intersection. He said his personal opinion is instead of having a yield sign at an intersection, it would be better to have a stop sign. At least there would be something there to enforce. He said if there would be

an accident at the intersection, the party who had the yield sign could easily say they slowed down and didn't see anyone coming and so they entered the intersection. He said stop signs are more definitive. They are either stop or go, where yield signs leave a lot up to the driver to decide if they are going to proceed. Don Adams said he supports Officer Kiefer on that. He said people just disregard the yield signs. Resident Steve Gettemeier said he came in place of his son Brian. He said Brian lives on St. Louis Street, and he lives on the corner of St. Antoine and Aubuchon. He said he did live in the house on St. Denis for about eight years before he moved. He said he has seen the near misses, the honking, and the screeching of tires. He said Aubuchon and Castello both are just cut-throughs from Washington Street to Parker Road. Coming from Parker Road, the one at St. Antoine is a joke. They never slow down anymore. They just keep on cruising right through there. Mr. Gettemeier said his grandchildren walk back and forth between his house and his son's house. He said they are teenagers now, but they still preach to them to be careful. He said they have their cell phones and are doing 4000 other things while they are walking up the road. He said he has lived there ten years on St. Antoine and said he can't believe the amount of people walking down Aubuchon. Greg Keil said it is a narrow road, too.

Mr. Gettemeier said it is pretty narrow and when you get a couple of cars parked down at his end, there are cars that come through and have to swerve in and out. He said, again, he can't believe how the people on St. Denis can get going that fast to blow through that intersection as fast as they do. He said it is really a scary situation. He said a stop sign would really help to at least get them to slow down. He said, again, there are all kinds of people walking and they are not watching what they are doing. They are just walking and chit chatting with everybody and are not aware of their surroundings. He said they may walk that once a day whereas these cars are flying through

there all the time. Dave Clasby said he drove there today and yielded to a golf cart that was coming down Aubuchon. He said as narrow as the streets are and no one is yielding, if another car was coming, it is so tight there, he thinks it would probably be best for the people living in the area to have a stop sign there. Zach Schneider said he would like to bring up one other thing. He said just a block down from Aubuchon is St. Michael. He said it is the same exact scenario. He was wondering if we could change that intersection at the same time and just knock it out. It was stated that St. Joseph is also a yield intersection. It was also stated that the one at St. Michael was on the Agenda a few years ago and the Traffic Commission recommended denying the request since it didn't meet any of the criteria for the stop sign warrant. It was stated that there was not a lot of traffic there and the stop signs were not to control speeding.

Mr. Gettemeier said he feels this is a residential area and if he has to stop at every block, then he will stop at every block. He said people are cutting through there trying to beat the traffic coming down Florissant Road. Zach Schneider said he is not trying to make a four-way stop at every intersection. He is talking about the streets coming into the main thoroughfare. Mr. Gettemeier said that would help to slow them down. Zach Schneider said Officer Kiefer mentioned that he thought it is a valid point to put the stop sign in place of the yield sign. Jason Timme said we have a lot, and you wouldn't believe of how many intersections we have that are just a yield. He said there are actually quite a few intersections that just have a yield instead of a stop sign.

Zach Schneider said that is interesting and feels that it is a little dangerous. Jason Timme said right off the top of his head, other than the ones we mentioned, is Teakwood Manor over on the other side of town where Cedar comes across. There are three or four intersections in a row that are all just yield signs. He said he can't believe this hasn't been brought up before now

because just driving through there it seems dangerous to have it like that. He said he doesn't know why they ever did it that way. Greg Keil said when he went through there he was looking for sight obstructions. He said there is a huge tree on the one corner which is somewhat obstructive. Zach Schneider asked if there was any way we can maybe make this for other intersections since this is the second month in a row we've had an item like this. He was told we couldn't vote on the others tonight because it would violate the Sunshine Law since it wasn't posted in advance. He asked if we could make like a blanket where we take a look at every intersection like this in the City of Florissant. He said it is just a four-way intersection with just a yield or some even have nothing. He feels this is just terrible. Teri Reiter suggested putting up signs that say cross traffic does not stop, or something like that. Jason Timme said, honestly, we don't have many of those signs either. He said he can think of two that we have done recently. He said part of the problem is there is a higher volume of traffic now than there was in 1969 when they first put the yield signs out. He said there are more subdivisions and more of everything else. Then there is a point when this is brought up and everyone says, yes, this is pretty dangerous. At that point, you just have to go with it. He asked if we wanted to look at every instance of this. Zach Schneider said that is a big study that we would have to think about doing. Jason Timme said it is either that or wait until somebody brings it up. Do we want to do the whole city or do we want to do them as they are requested. Jason Timme said he didn't know if it was up to someone to take it to their councilperson and then they put it on the agenda, or maybe the councilperson makes a recommendation to review every intersection that is a yield intersection only. He said maybe that is the way to go with that. He said when that gets brought up, then we list out every intersection that's a yield. Don Adams said he feels like the yield signs are kind of

archaic. He thinks the way to do it is to take them as they come to us because some areas may not have the traffic that this gentleman's family has. He feels that we should take them one by one as they are requested and then go from there since a lot of them don't have a lot of traffic to justify a stop sign. Pete Fischer said there is a lot more population out there and looking at Lindbergh at rush hour it is bumper to bumper. He said he is sure Florissant Road backs up, so people are learning how to use the little side streets to get around. He said it was an "old town" where the streets were very narrow and blocks were very short. He said traffic lights and traffic signs are being ignored now. He said he drives downtown to work sometimes and at every stop sign three or four cars just blow right through them. Teri Reiter said people think the signs are just suggestions. It was stated that Aubuchon and Castello both pick up traffic wise when Florissant Road backs up. You can tell when something is happening. People are using those streets as cut-throughs.

Motion was made by Zach Schneider to make a recommendation to replace the yield signs with stop signs on St. Denis at Aubuchon. Motion was seconded by Teri Reiter. On the roll call the commission voted: Donna Smith-Pupillo – yes, Don Adams – yes, Greg Keil – yes, Teri Reiter – yes, Pete Fischer – yes, Zach Schneider – yes, Dave Clasby – yes and Kim Redden – yes. Motion carried. Item 02/21 was dropped from the Agenda.

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MISCELLANEOUS:

Next Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

No other items were brought before the Commission this evening. The meeting was adjourned.

For the Chairman
Mayor's Advisory Traffic Commission

MaryAnn Fitzpatrick
Recording Clerk