



Transportation Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Chairman Osleeb, Jeffrey Sievers, , Rachel Andre, Ruben Paige and Katie Reischmann (Virtual). Absent: Michael Sasse and Jennifer Adams.

Also Present

Staff: Director of Public Works & Transportation Charles Ramdatt; Transportation Planner Keith Moore and Engineer II Hongmyung Lim. Assistant Director of Planning & Zoning Allison McGillis, and Sergeant Jeff Marcum.

1) Call to Order

Chairman Osleeb called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2) Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting, April 17, 2023.

Motion made by Jeffrey Sievers, seconded by Rachel Andre to approve the April 17, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

3) Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

4) Action Items

- a. Lee Road & Bennett Avenue.

Mr. Lim explained that the intersection was discussed several years ago with the idea to create a four-way intersection with a traffic signal connecting Bennett Avenue to Executive Drive. After past discussions, the idea was eliminated due to obstructions and opposition from residents in the area.

Mr. Lim presented a primitive plan that is approved by FDOT and explained it has been determined that a traffic signal is currently not warranted at that location. FDOT agrees for the city to proceed with phase one improvements north of the FDOT right-of-way line including turn lanes, gore striping, and sidewalk and stormwater improvements. He added staff received an alternative design as an interim measure from neighbors such as adding a left turn lane with a grass median, turning lanes with and right turn only lanes for both Executive Drive and Bennett Avenue.

Discussion followed on both options. Mr. Lim explained that no reason was given for the opposition to the traffic light in the second proposal. He noted, however, that it would be costly and challenging to add a traffic signal once a grass median is added. He said a grass median could also cause challenges for pedestrians crossing the street, compared to a traffic signal. He presented a slide identifying a proposed new crosswalk at Lee Road with no traffic signal and noted potential pedestrian safety issues.

In response to questions, Mrs. McGillis said the Ravaudage development currently has 700 units and is eligible to add an additional 90 units but about 1M square feet in office/commercial potential development northeast of Bennett Avenue and Lee Road. She confirmed that the traffic signal warrant analysis concluded a signal is not warranted because there is still a lot of development to happen in the area. She added that with the addition of the newly proposed gym coming to the area, a signal may be warranted at that time.

Discussion was held on impacts on pedestrian traffic crossing Lee Road. Mr. Ramdatt explained that an RRFB could be put at the intersection, but a traffic signal would be a better treatment. He said adding the RRFB would make it difficult to add a signal in the future. He said staff is looking at interim solutions, but does not want an option that would preclude a signal from being installed.

Discussion continued on the residents' request to add a grass median to the intersection. Mrs. McGillis expressed concerns that FDOT may not want a signal added later if the city implements a short-term solution, which would lead to no options for pedestrian crossing. She explained that the widening of Bennett Avenue is one of the requirements of the developer to make improvements to Bennett and Lee as part of the entitlements of the planned development.

Motion made by Jefferey Sievers to approve the planned developed by Sloan Engineering Group, seconded by Ruben Page. Motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.

5) Non-Action Items

a. Safety Video

Mr. Lim said the idea for the safety video came from the Vision Zero/Target Zero initiative the federal and state governments are trying to implement. The video was presented at the last MetroPlan meeting and the intent of the video is to show how reducing five miles per hour can save lives. At the meeting, it was suggested the video be shared with other municipal boards.

Mr. Lim said through regional efforts, MetroPlan Orlando was awarded funds through the federal government for MetroPlan Orlando and agencies that contributed to develop a Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. The city will be working with Metroplan

Orlando to develop the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan to increase and bring awareness about safety for all modes of transportation.

b. Police Department – E-Bikes & Low-Speed Vehicle Discussion

Mr. Lim explained this item is an update from the discussion at the April 17, 2023 TAB meeting regarding, micro-mobility, e-bikes, and low-speed vehicles and referenced materials sent on behalf of WPPD to the board (also in agenda packet) for review in advance of this meeting.

Sergeant Marcum said the documents provided were to give the board an idea of what WPPD is currently using for training officers. He noted that there are some gray areas with case law and spoke about difficulties with enforcement. Discussion was held on the lack of speed limits for bikes and e-bikes and their impact on pedestrians on the street and walking trails. Sergeant Marcum noted the CBD has rules for bike use due to the high volume of pedestrians, businesses, and restaurants. but trying to enforce those rules outside of that setting (i.e. parks/trails) is more likely to be challenged.

Discussion continued on mechanisms in place to enforce bike/e-bike/golf cart speeding and other infractions, and how to implement new rules to govern bikes/e-bikes and other low-speed vehicles. Ms. Andres feels the board needs guidance from staff on how to move forward. Mr. Sievers suggested research on how other agencies are managing the issue. The board requested a work session to discuss these issues.

The board spoke on proper passing etiquette on bike trails and the possibility of adding signs on the trails. In response to adding signs to trails, Mr. Moore noted the RRFBs located at Cady Way Trail and said they are rarely used by pedestrians. He said signs are not always the best solution. He will research what other municipalities are doing for mitigation and report back to the board.

6) Staff Updates

Mr. Lim said staff is preparing for a lot of projects coming up in the summer and noted staff will be working on retiming signals at Glenridge Way and Denning Drive Corridors, finalizing the Transportation Master in addition to other projects. The southbound right turn lane project at Fairbanks and Denning is expected for permit approval end of this week followed by the bid process. The project is still on schedule to begin construction around July/August.

Mr. Ramdatt spoke about the brick street project. He said all of the brick streets in the city have been assessed and at this time, he and Mr. Moore have been working with the city's own team to make minor repairs. He said a contractor is being selected to work on more extensive spot repairs and another contractor will be selected later in the year for long-stretch repairs. Repairs are being made to the brick streets at Canton and Pennsylvania and are expected to be completed this week.

Mr. Paige remarked that years ago traffic signals at the intersections of Canton and Pennsylvania and New England and Pennsylvania were converted to four-way stop signs. Mr. Ramdatt explained a policy decision had been made to remove traffic signals from areas that did not meet traffic signal warrants and insert four or two-way stops instead. He spoke about the benefits of using stop signs instead of traffic signals in certain areas. Mr. Paige will meet with staff to identify areas/times when stop signs are being run.

Discussion continued on the use of stop signs versus traffic signals, how traffic is monitored to ensure areas are being signalized properly, smart city efforts for extended fiber optic communications and surveillance cameras, and the development of the city's Transportation Management Center.

7) Board Comments

8) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Next TAB regular meeting Discussion

The next regular meeting falls on the Juneteenth holiday. After discussion, consensus was to consider rescheduling the next meeting to June 12, 2023.

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Lim noted the election of Chair and Vice-chair will be on the next meeting agenda.

c. Board Orientation – Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Board orientation is Monday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. There will be a virtual option but physical attendance is preferred.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kim Breland

Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by the board on 07/17/2023.

/s/ Recording Secretary Kim Breland