

**MINUTES  
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY BOARD**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday**

**August 21, 2008**

Chairperson Leppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Leppanen, McGowan, Chiara, Reynolds, Nebus (ex-officio), DeCorte (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Mehas

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mr. Chiara, seconded by Mr. Reynolds, to accept the minutes of June 19, 2008. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Shiawassee Turning Guide Striping  
Director Nebus reported that Paul Smith from the public services department called him to confirm the broken line pavement turning guide on eastbound Shiawassee to northbound Power will be painted when the Power Road construction is completed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Downtown Center Speed Limit  
Director Nebus stated that Mayor Knol asked that the traffic board review the possibility of posting an appropriate speed limit on Main Street and Market Place in the downtown center. The members recalled a prior meeting where it was determined the city could not legally post a speed limit of less than 25 mph since the streets were dedicated streets. During tonight's discussion, Director Nebus was asked to investigate if the streets were officially designated streets with the State of Michigan or are the streets just owned by the city? Mr. Reynolds suggested the streets may not have been legally dedicated and declared with the

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State of Michigan. Mr. DeCorte suggested the streets do not meet legal road specifications and do not have the legally required street signs. Mr. Chiara suggested they are not legally dedicated streets because the businesses still have Grand River or Farmington Road addresses. The director will investigate and give a report at the next meeting.

### B. Width of Downtown Center Parking Spaces

Director Nebus stated Mayor Knol asked the board to discuss if wider parking spaces in the downtown center might enhance the ease and safety for drivers backing up, especially near the post office. Mr. DeCorte stated the current parking stall layouts were improperly done. The isle length, angle and width of the stalls are not in concert. Mr. DeCorte measured the existing parking stalls and discovered several different widths. The board discussed the history of the original design recognizing the city had to guarantee the landlord owner a minimum number of parking spaces. The board hoped the added Grove streetscape parking might give the city the ability to redesign the parking stalls in the downtown center. Mr. DeCorte stated if the current parking stalls are forty-five degree angles, the existing front curb lengths are one to two feet short. If the current parking stalls are sixty degree angles, the width of parking isles is less than the required 14.5 feet. The board agreed with the mayor that redesigning the parking stalls will improve the ease and safety of parking.

### C. Eastbound Shiawassee at Farmington Road "No Turn on Red" Sign

Director Nebus introduced a request from resident Frank Greenhalgh, through Mayor Knol. Mr. Greenhalgh requested consideration to permit turning right on red during restricted times at eastbound Shiawassee at Farmington Road. Mr. Chiara acknowledged there are times he has waited to turn right when it would have been clear to turn. All members agreed the "No Turn on Red" sign is there because westbound Shiawassee traffic turning left onto Farmington Road can turn on a green arrow that is not seen by the eastbound traffic waiting to turn right. Mr. DeCorte stated if the westbound traffic turning left on the green arrow and the traffic waiting to turn right on red were each turning onto a road with designated lanes, the "No Turn on Red" sign could be removed. However, Farmington Road does not have two southbound lanes. Mr. Chiara made a motion, supported by Mr. Reynolds, to reject the request to remove the "No Turn on Red" sign. Motion carried unanimously.

### D. Maplenut Cul-de-sac Parking

The board discussed the August 8, 2008 letter sent to cul-de-sac residents by Director Nebus. The letter asked for voluntary resident cooperation to refrain from parking on the cul-de-sac on Tuesdays so the trash hauler could get through the street without driving onto the island to avoid parked cars. The director said a community policing visit was made at each residence on the cul-de-sac. The residents received a copy of the letter from the officer and verbally expressed their intent to cooperate. Mr. DeCorte stated the owner of any vehicle blocking the route of the trash hauler could be ticketed for impeding traffic. The

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board agreed they would be receptive to recommending a no parking on Tuesday ordinance if the problem persists.

E. Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs

Director Nebus shared the positive community feedback for the signs placed inside the downtown Grand River crosswalks. Mr. DeCorte shared that he has parked and monitored the crosswalks. He believes the signs are slowing traffic and making it easier for pedestrians to cross Grand River. All of the board members present gave positive feedback.

F. City Website

Director Nebus reported for City Manager Pastue that Mr. Ron Baker, who works on the city website, will be present at a future meeting to take a photograph and author an article about the traffic board. The article will be the "spotlight" feature on the city website.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Reynolds reported an old green pick-up truck is regularly parking on Shiawassee and forcing passing eastbound drivers to pass using the center left turn lane. The director will provide the information to patrol officers.

Mr. DeCorte asked the status of the State Street crosswalk. The director stated Director Gushman from public services is actively working on the project with the Oakland County Road Commission. Director Gushman has already ordered the "Yield to Pedestrians" sign to utilize within the crosswalk.

Mr. Chiara asked to receive information regarding the disbursement of traffic fine monies. Director Nebus stated he will contact the court administrator to obtain the information.

Mr. Chiara expressed his concern regarding speeding on Shiawassee. Director Nebus reported that PSO Wash recently did a speed study (Wednesday, August 6, 2008) utilizing radar while parked inside of a plain car parked in a driveway at Shiawassee near Hillcrest. One hundred vehicles passed eastbound between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The average speed was 27.39 mph. PSO Wash reported he would have issued a citation to only one driver who was driving 40 mph. One hundred four cars passed, traveling westbound between the same time period (9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.). The average speed was 27 mph.

The director reported PSO Wash returned later in the day from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The average speed of one hundred six eastbound vehicles was 27.67 mph. The average speed of one hundred four westbound vehicles was 20.66 mph.

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Mr. Chiara stated the speeding occurs at 3:00 p.m. Mr. DeCorte agreed to have a rubber hose installed to further study and monitor the speeds.

The director stated PSO Wash did a similar speed study at the Grand River and Warner crosswalk while sitting on a park bench at Riley Park. The average speed of hundreds of vehicles in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon was 28 mph in each direction.

Chairperson Leppanen asked about the status of the painted striping for vehicles turning left from eastbound Nine Mile Road onto northbound Floral (February 21, 2008 minutes). The board members believed the proper pavement painting has been completed. The director will follow up.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

September 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Chiara to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Nebus  
Public Safety Director