

## Traffic Commission Minutes

City of Rock Hill, South Carolina

September 21, 2022

A public hearing of the Traffic Commission was held Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 155 Johnston Street, Rock Hill SC.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Derrick Lindsay, Jimmy Bagley, Steven Varnadore, Ivan McCorkle, Terrence Nealy, and Clifton Goolsby

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Captain Jim Grayson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Herrmann, Arthdale Brown, Leslie Galvez, Emily Burns, Tommy Feemster and Rob Walsh

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Lindsay called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Lindsay asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions from the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Nealy then made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented; this was seconded by Mr. Goolsby and was unanimously approved.

### 3. Business:

#### A. Sanitation Service

Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of challenges that are being faced by public works staff regarding sanitation service to multiple residential areas. Mr. Herrmann summarized previous discussion regarding these challenges related to “T Turnarounds” or “Hammerhead Turnarounds” in residential areas within the Ardwyck Place neighborhood, Atherton Place neighborhood, Pennington Townhomes, and Osprey Pointe neighborhood that are being used for parking by residents and visitors.

Mr. Herrmann then noted that Traffic Commission reviewed this item at the August meeting. Resulting action items included: staff to review City Ordinances regarding parking and staff to coordinate with Neighborhood Services to provide communication and education to neighborhood areas regarding parking in T turnaround locations. Mr. Herrmann then provided a summary of the City Ordinances regarding parking. Discussion then followed regarding how best to address these concerns. Mr. Bagley suggested that staff coordinate with Rock Hill Police Department and Rock Hill Fire Department to inquire whether parking in these locations is causing concerns with emergency services. Mr. Bagley noted that if this is only an issue for sanitation service, then the best resolution may be to post signage that indicates “No Parking on Day of Trash Service”.

Mr. Goolsby then inquired as to what would be the best approach for any of these T turnaround locations that are in private alleyways? Mr. Bagley suggest coordinating with property owners to inquire whether they will allow signage to be posted. Mr. Goolsby suggested that staff coordinate with Neighborhood Services on this effort.

Mr. Nealy then inquired whether an adjustment to the City Ordinance is required to

address this overall issue as well as posting signage at the specific locations that have been discussed today? Mr. Herrmann noted that for future development, it is now noted in the Zoning Ordinance that T Turnaround locations are to be signed for “No Parking Anytime”. Mr. Lindsay supported changing the City Ordinance in order to address this matter in locations that have not been noted as of yet. Mr. Goolsby suggested that staff bring forth recommended changes to the City Ordinance before Traffic Commission prior to moving forward to City Council.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff move forward with posting “No Parking” signage on day of sanitation service for the locations discussed. Traffic Commission also recommended that staff coordinate with Rock Hill Police Department and Rock Hill Fire Department to understand any emergency services issues. Traffic Commission then recommended that staff bring forth any recommended changes to the City Ordinance for review at a future meeting.

## **B. Lige Street / Haynes Street**

Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of the area; highlighting termini, signage, road width, grading and curvature. Mr. Herrmann explained that ownership and maintenance responsibilities are held by SCDOT. Mr. Herrmann noted that the posted speed limit for Lige Street is 25 MPH and Haynes Street has an unposted speed limit of 35 MPH. Mr. Feemster then explained that SCDOT had lowered the speed limit on Lige Street in recent years following requests from residents. Mr. Herrmann next explained that Traffic Commission previously reviewed this location at the August meeting where resulting action items included the recommendation for traffic studies to be completed on both roadways.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed the results of the requested traffic studies. The traffic study completed on Lige Street showed a 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 30 MPH and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 37 MPH. The study also captured approximately 890 trips per day for this segment. The traffic study completed on Haynes Street showed a 50<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 19 MPH and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 27 MPH. The study also captured approximately 485 trips per day.

Mr. Herrmann then highlighted that the traffic study on Lige Street was completed within the segment between Russell Street and Flint Hill Street where a significant grade change occurs for northbound and southbound traffic. Mr. Herrmann noted that for northbound traffic going toward Flint Hill Street, vehicles are traveling downhill and that likely had a significant impact on the rate of speed captured during the study.

Discussion then followed regarding the results of the traffic studies. Mr. Lindsay acknowledged that Rock Hill Police Department has continued their targeted enforcement in this area. Mr. Goolsby then noted that additional data may be needed to understand whether the 25 MPH posting is appropriate for this roadway, considering the grade change. Mr. Herrmann suggested that staff could perform an additional study utilizing the in-roadway sensors that will provide specific information for the directional traffic.

Mr. Herrmann then noted overgrown vegetation that will need to be addressed at the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Lige Street / Haynes Street.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff complete an additional traffic study and provide additional information at a future meeting.

## **C. Unposted Speed Limits**

Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of current City Ordinances that states unposted roadways have a speed limit of 20 MPH in any business district, 35 MPH in any residential district, and 45 MPH under other conditions. Mr. Herrmann explained that York County is currently posting residential streets with 25 MPH speed limits and assume that any unposted streets have a 25 MPH speed limit as well. State Ordinance for South Carolina outlines that unposted residential roadways have a 30 MPH speed limit. Mr. Herrmann noted that the City Ordinance is currently above both York County and the State of South Carolina standard for unposted residential roadways.

Mr. Herrmann then provided a summary of all traffic studies completed within the past five years for unposted residential roadways. Discussion then followed regarding multiple concerns from citizens and residents regarding 35 MPH speed limits being too high for residential roadways. Mr. Goolsby noted that a significant amount of traffic studies completed on these unposted roadways supports a 30 MPH speed limit rather than a 35 MPH speed limit. Mr. Lindsay then noted the high number of existing streets with unposted 35 MPH speed limits where no sidewalks exist, creating a higher concern for safety for pedestrians related to speeding. Mr. Nealy then stated that reducing the unposted speed limit within City limits and making it more consistent with what is mandated by the State would likely be better received by the public more than having a higher speed limit. Mr. Feemster noted that SCDOT would be supportive of such a change.

Mr. Nealy then transitioned to inquire if this change is made, how will it be communicated to the public? Mr. Goolsby suggested posting signage at all major roadways as you enter the City limits. Mr. Bagley supported this, and added that press releases should be issued and a marketing campaign would be likely utilizing staff, as well as Neighborhood Services and the Police Department.

Traffic Commission then unanimously recommended that staff provide a request to City Council to reduce the speed limit of unposted residential roadways from 35 MPH to 30 MPH.

#### **D. My Ride Transit**

Mr. Goolsby provided a summary of the adjustments that are being considered to the 4 fixed route transit routes provided by My Ride. Mr. Goolsby noted that a public comment period for these adjustments ends today (September 21<sup>st</sup>). Mr. Goolsby then highlighted that today's meeting serves as the third public meeting opportunity for comments and feedback to be provided.

Mr. Goolsby then provided an overview of the feedback received thus far. Mr. Goolsby then reviewed adjustments being proposed to the Downtown / Knowledge Park Loop, the Dave Lyle / Galleria Line, the Cherry / Riverwalk Line, the Saluda / Heckle Loop, as well as the Paratransit Service. Mr. Goolsby asked if there were any questions or comments on the adjustments reviewed today? Those in attendance were in support of the adjustments presented.

### **4. Other Items**

#### **A. Status Report**

Mr. Herrmann briefly summarized the Status Report which outlines follow-up action items from the previous meetings.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed previous recommendations made by Traffic Commission

regarding the Neely Road widening that is planned by York County Pennies for Progress. Mr. Herrmann noted that York County had recently completed the traffic analysis for that project which includes recommendations for changes to accesses to the College Downs neighborhood at College Plaza Blvd and Aaron Ave. Mr. Herrmann noted that previously Traffic Commission had provided feedback that modifying the access to Aaron Ave to emergency access only would be supported, and adjusting the existing two bi-directional accesses on College Plaza Blvd to one-way only would be supported.

Mr. Herrmann then explained that staff have reviewed the traffic analysis and adjusting the bi-directional accesses on College Plaza Blvd to one-way only may be problematic from a safety standpoint. Discussion then followed regarding these potential changes. Traffic Commission asked staff to coordinate with York County Pennies for Progress Program Manager Patrick Hamilton and provide additional information at the October meeting.

#### **B. Traffic Calming Application**

Mr. Herrmann briefly noted that the first deadline for submitting applications for Traffic Calming requests will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **5. Next Meeting:**

Mr. Herrmann explained that the next meeting has been scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers.

#### **6. Adjourn:**

There being no further business, Mr. Goolsby made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nealy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.