

Traffic Commission Minutes

City of Rock Hill, South Carolina

August 17, 2022

A public hearing of the Traffic Commission was held Wednesday, August 17, 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, Clifton Goolsby and Captain Jim Grayson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Herrmann, Leah Youngblood, Arthdale Brown, Leslie Galvez, Kevin Richardson, 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 July 20, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Lindsay asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions from the July 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Bagley then made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented; this was seconded by Mr. Nealy and was unanimously approved.

3. Business:

A. S Jones Ave

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 shared by the City of Rock Hill and SCDOT. Mr. Herrmann noted that the un-posted speed limit is 35 MPH. Mr. Herrmann next explained Traffic Commission previously reviewed this location in June of this year where the recommendation was for staff to complete a traffic study.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed the results of the requested traffic study. The traffic study was completed on August 15th and results showed a 50th percentile speed of 27 MPH and an 85th percentile speed of 37 MPH. Mr. Herrmann noted that the traffic study captured approximately 225 trips per day.

Ms. Gail Nathan (1038 S Jones Ave Ext) voiced concerns regarding speed on S Jones Ave near Midvale Ave. Ms. Nathan noted that the neighborhood would be supportive of traffic calming in the form of speed humps.

Discussion then followed regarding the results of the traffic study and the request for traffic calming. Mr. Walsh noted that the majority of traffic is operating within the un-posted speed limit. Mr. Walsh also stated that the best approach to address those drivers operating above the speed limit would be targeted enforcement. Mr. Bagley then highlighted that the traffic study shows the majority of speeding seems to occur on Friday afternoons and evenings, noting that RHPD should utilize the results to conduct their targeted enforcement during those times. Captain Grayson then mentioned that RHPD

could evaluate whether the speed trailer can be placed along S Jones Ave near Midvale Ave.

Traffic Commission then recommended that targeted enforcement be conducted by Rock Hill Police Department.

B. Bynum Ave

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 is 35 MPH. Mr. Herrmann next explained Traffic Commission previously reviewed this location in May of this year where the recommendation was for staff to complete a traffic study on two segments; the segment from Richland Street to Constitution Blvd and the segment from Constitution Blvd to Main Street.

Mr. Herrmann then reviewed the results of the requested traffic studies. The traffic study completed on the segment from Richland Street to Constitution Blvd showed a 50th percentile speed of 22 MPH and an 85th percentile speed of 29 MPH. The study also captured approximately 435 trips per day for this segment. The traffic study completed on the segment from Constitution Blvd to Main Street showed a 50th percentile speed of 23 MPH and an 85th percentile speed of 32 MPH. The study also captured approximately 1,245 trips per day.

Mr. Herrmann then highlights that staff observed sight distance and visibility concerns related to the intersection of Bynum Ave / Castle Street due to overgrown vegetation on the northeastern quadrant and a large tree on the northwestern quadrant. Mr. Herrmann noted that staff can work with Neighborhood Services to address the northeastern quadrant, however the large tree on the northwestern quadrant presents a larger issue.

Discussion then followed regarding the challenges presented by the large tree. Mr. Goolsby noted that typically staff had recommended advisory speed signage or warning signage in situations like this where the object cannot be removed. Mr. Herrmann then noted that this is a roadway that is owned and maintained by SCDOT, thus coordination would be needed between state and city staff. Mr. Feemster noted that SCDOT will evaluate the roadway for additional signage.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff coordinate with Neighborhood Services in order to address the overgrown vegetation on the northeastern quadrant of the intersection of Bynum / Castle. Traffic Commission also recommended that staff coordinate with SCDOT regarding potential warning or advisory signage regarding the sight distance challenge due to the large tree on the northwestern quadrant of the intersection of Bynum / Castle.

C. 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 explained that the challenges seem to be mostly related to parking in these different areas. Mr. Herrmann then summarized areas within the Ardwyck Place neighborhood, Atherton Place neighborhood, Pennington Townhomes, and Osprey Pointe neighborhood where there are multiple "T Turnarounds" or "Hammerhead Turnarounds" which are in place to allow for vehicles to turnaround on dead-end streets, particularly sanitation vehicles or emergency vehicles. Mr. Herrmann continued that residents and visitors are utilizing

these areas as additional parking in these neighborhoods.

Mr. Bagley then inquired as to the best approach to address the concerns in these residential neighborhoods related to the parking that occurs in the turnaround locations? Mr. Goolsby advised staff to review the City ordinances to see if this was specifically mentioned. Discussion then followed regarding potential for implementing signage in these locations to assist in enforcement. Mr. Bagley stated that education and communication would be a good first step, perhaps staff and Neighborhood Services could work together to accomplish this. After that first initial step, Public Works can leave individual notices on vehicles that are causing the issues, or contact RHPD to conduct targeted enforcement.

Mr. Herrmann then transitioned to summarize challenges that are being faced by public works staff regarding sanitation service in the Winthrop University area including Ebenezer Ave, Park Ave, Union Ave, and Aiken Ave. Mr. Herrmann explained that much of this area currently has signage and limitations to on-street parking. However, staff have received a number of concerns regarding these signs and regulations not being adhered to by residents, visitors, and Winthrop students.

Kevin Richardson (Public Works Project Manager, City of Rock Hill) voiced concerns regarding these parking areas, noting challenges that are being experienced by operators of sanitation vehicles on a weekly basis while trying to service these areas. Mr. Richardson requested consideration of signage that would require "No Parking" in these areas or at least "No Parking On Day of Trash Collection" signage. Mr. Richardson noted that the "No Parking on Day of Trash Collection" signage would need to prohibit parking between the hours of 7 AM to 5 PM for the day of pickup.

Mr. Bagley then inquired whether this approach has been taken with other areas? Mr. Richardson affirmed that similar signage has been utilized in other areas. Discussion then followed regarding this approach for the larger Winthrop University area. Mr. Herrmann noted that staff would advise implementing signage on all streets between Stewart Ave and Wilson Street so as to properly address the concerns from Public Works. Mr. Goolsby then advised that staff should develop a signing scheme. Mr. Bagley then advised staff to perform an inventory of all signage in this area and complete a signage plan. Mr. Richardson then noted that since these changes would impact student parking for Winthrop University, city staff have requested coordination with Winthrop University.

Interim Chief Charles Yearta (Interim Police Chief, Winthrop University) then spoke, noting that RHPD have coordinated with Winthrop Police previously in attempt to address the concerns related to student parking in the university area. Chief Yearta noted that he is in full support of the city devising a signing and / or parking scheme for this area in attempt to address the concerns from residents as well as Public Works staff for the City. Chief Yearta continued, explaining that each semester, Winthrop Police send out emails to students, faculty, and staff explaining the regulations related to parking on public streets. Chief Yearta also highlighted that targeted enforcement including ticketing and towing has shown to work the best in addressing the parking issues.

Mr. Bagley then inquired to Chief Yearta whether sufficient parking is available to all students on campus? Chief Yearta affirmed that sufficient parking is available, though convenience seems to have an impact on where drivers are choosing to park, be it in University parking lots or on public streets. Mr. Herrmann then added that this seems to be in line with concerns that have been noted to City staff by residents and businesses in this area. Mr. Herrmann also stated that as University Center continues to develop these

concerns are likely to continue to come from residents in this area.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff review the City Ordinances regarding parking. Traffic Commission also recommended staff to coordinate with Neighborhood Services to provide communication and education to the neighborhood areas about the "T Turnarounds." Traffic Commission lastly recommended that staff complete an inventory of signage in the Winthrop University area that was discussed and devise a signage plan.

D. Lige Street / Haynes Street

Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of the area; highlighting termini, speed limits, signage, road width, grading, and curvature. Mr. Herrmann explained that ownership and maintenance responsibilities in this area are held by SCDOT. Mr. Herrmann then noted that Traffic Commission had not reviewed this particular location in the past. Mr. Herrmann lastly explained that Councilman Lindsay and Councilman Perry Sutton requested review of this area due to speeding concerns.

Discussion then followed regarding the concerns in this area. Mr. Herrmann explained that while a traffic study has not been completed in this area in the past four years, RHPD has been conducting targeted enforcement in this area. Mr. Lindsay then requested that staff complete traffic studies on this roadway in order to provide data that can be utilized for further evaluation or further targeted enforcement efforts.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff complete traffic studies on Lige Street and on Haynes Street.

E. Chandler Drive

Mr. Herrmann provided an overview of the area; highlighting termini, speed limits, signage, road width, grading, and curvature. Mr. Herrmann explained that ownership and maintenance responsibilities in this area are held by SCDOT. Mr. Herrmann then noted that SCDOT had received a request by a resident for speed limit signage on Chandler Drive. This request was then shared with City staff to be reviewed by Traffic Commission.

Discussion then followed regarding this request. Mr. Herrmann highlighted that the speed limit on Chandler Drive is currently an un-posted 35 MPH. Mr. Feemster explained that SCDOT staff had initially recommended posting this roadway as 25 MPH, however further evaluation is needed in order to make a decision. Mr. Feemster stated that SCDOT staff will further analyze other roadways in the neighborhood area in order to determine a speed limit posting for Chandler Drive that is consistent with the broader area.

Traffic Commission then recommended that staff coordinate with SCDOT regarding their evaluation of Chandler Drive.

F. My Ride Transit

Mr. Goolsby explained that several adjustments are being considered to the 4 fixed route transit routes that are provided by My Ride. Mr. Goolsby noted that a public comment period for these adjustments will be held from August 19th to September 21st, and a Public Meeting will be held on August 29th at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers of Rock Hill City Hall. The September 21st meeting of Traffic Commission will serve as the second public meeting opportunity, that meeting will be held at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers or Rock Hill City Hall.

Mr. Goolsby then provided an overview of the adjustments 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.

B. Traffic Calming Application

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

5. Next Meeting:

Mr. Herrmann explained that the next meeting has been scheduled for September 21st, 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 11:15 AM.