

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

JANUARY 15, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the City of Peoria's Traffic Commission convened at 3:35 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at City Hall, Room 404, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, and was called to order by Vice Chairperson Annette Mills.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order showed the following Traffic Commission Members in attendance: Vice Chairperson Annette Mills, Commissioner Mary Jane Crowell, Commissioner Joe Hudson, Commissioner Curphy Smith, Commissioner Brandon Lott, and Commissioner Patrick Sullivan – 5; Absent: Chairman John Haverhals and Commissioner Glen McCullough – 2.

Others in attendance included City Engineer Gene Hewitt, City Traffic Design Engineer Nick Stoffer, Sean Coyle, Geometric Engineer and Mike Boyer, Assistant Geometric Engineer both with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Co-Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Council for the Disabled Roger Sparks, Members of the Media and Traffic Engineering Division Secretary Stephanie Stapleton.

ITEM NO. 1 PRESENTATION BY CITY CLERK MARY HAYNES ON THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

City Clerk Mary Haynes mentioned that Corporation Counsel Randall Ray would not be attending the meeting. She distributed a handout entitled Open Meeting Requirements and gave a brief overview. Clerk Haynes stated that a commission formed by the governing body (Council/Board) that break out into committees, subcommittees, ad hoc committees, those are considered public bodies and are subject to the Open Meetings Act. She further explained that notices and separate minutes would be required. Meetings of Public Bodies must be properly noticed and held at a time and place convenient and open to the public. Agendas must be posted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Clerk Haynes cautioned the Commission about the usage of electronic mail, electronic chat and instant messaging or other means of interactive communication among themselves because this could constitute a meeting; therefore, all requirements of the Opening Meetings Act for public meetings must be met. She gave several examples of electronic mail being used in lawsuits and felt that it should be avoided, if possible.

Clerk Haynes stated that agendas and minutes must be permanently maintained and the tapes used to ensure accuracy should be kept.

The Commission thanked Clerk Haynes for her presentation regarding the Open Meetings Act.

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**ITEM NO. 2 PRESENTATION BY SEAN COYLE, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGARDING THE PROPOSED SAFETY IMPROVEMENT TO LINCOLN AVENUE
AND HOWETT STREET**

Sean Coyle, Geometric Engineer and Mike Boyer, Assistant Geometric Engineer both with the Illinois Department of Transportation gave a brief presentation regarding the Proposed Safety Improvement to Lincoln Avenue and Howett Street.

IDOT's Highway Safety Program provides low cost safety improvement at severe crash locations on the State roadway system. The crash history was analyzed from 2000 – 2006. On Lincoln Avenue and Howett Street from Jefferson Avenue to Griswold Street there were 256 crashes involving 117 injuries and two fatalities. The signalized intersections of Western Avenue and MacArthur Highway were excluded. Majority of the crashes were 22% angle, 21% turning and 19% fixed object, which included parked vehicles. There have been 11 pedestrian and bicycle crashes during this period.

IDOT proposes to change the section of Lincoln Avenue and Howett Street from two one way lanes and an eight-foot parking lane to a one-way driving lane with a seven-foot-wide bike path with a four-foot flush median to separate bicyclist from motorists. The seven-foot-wide path would be designed on the south side of each road and marked with colored epoxy aggregate. The colored bike path lane would divide the bike and driving lanes. Both Lincoln Avenue and Howett Street would remain as one-way streets. This would serve to move the traffic away from the sidewalk and utilities, and make the intersections more visible, which would be a significant improvement. The proposed changes would reduce the number of severe accidents in this area. The intersection sight distance would improve by restricting parking at the corners for bus turn outs and should reduce angle/turning crashes.

This has been used in other urban areas across the country, but would be the first for Central Illinois. The proposed project would cost approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000. The project would be put out to bid in June to make use of available funding.

Commissioner Sullivan questioned if IDOT had met with area businesses regarding the proposed Improvement Plan and Commissioner Lott questioned if any input had been gathered from area residents.

Mr. Coyle stated that the Improvement Plan had not been discussed with business or property owners; but they would make themselves available to business and property owners to show the plan and to answer any questions regarding the project.

Commissioners agreed to review the plans and offer comments at the next scheduled Traffic Commission meeting.

Motion:

Commissioner Sullivan moved to receive and file the Proposed Safety Improvement Plan to Lincoln Avenue and Howett Street; seconded by Commissioner Hudson.

Approved by viva voce vote

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**STUDY OF THE US 24 CORRIDOR THROUGH THE CITY OF PEORIA FROM
I-474 TO US 150**

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the City Council approved the general scope of work for the Study to be performed by the IDOT-selected Consultant Christopher B. Burke Engineering.

In discussion with Commissioner Sullivan, City Engineer Hewitt indicated that a combined meeting was to be scheduled with various parties to prioritize each of the Study.

Commissioner Sullivan volunteered to attend the combined meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to come before the Traffic Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no citizens who wished to address the Commission at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Scheduled Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 19, 2008** at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall, Room 404.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sullivan moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission; seconded by Commissioner Crowell.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Annette Mills, Vice Chairperson

Gene Hewitt, City Engineer

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