

-UNAPPROVED-

MINUTES

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

August 5, 2020

4:00 PM

Southwest Minnesota State University, SS 235

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Schaefer, Labat, Lozinski

STAFF PRESENT: Director of Public Works/City Engineer Jason Anderson,
Assistant City Engineer Jessie Dehn

Schaefer called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of the Minutes:

MOTION BY LABAT, SECONDED BY LOZINSKI to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 Public Improvement/Transportation Committee meeting. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED 3:0.

New Business:

1. Striping and Signage (Saratoga Street, North 7th Street, Southview Drive)

Saratoga Street & North 7th Street: Anderson indicated staff is reviewing striping plans on various Municipal State Aid (MSA) streets to better align with traffic needs on the roadways. Two of the streets, Saratoga Street and North 7th Street, are included in this year's seal coating project, which is expected to be completed the week of August 17th. These segments are both striped with a continuous two-way left turn lane (TWLTL) today. Staff is proposing to generally stripe Saratoga as it is today, but include a solid white line to delineate parking lane from travel lane for southbound traffic and including yellow hatching around the crosswalk that leads to the middle school property. Southview Drive: The other street that was analyzed was Southview Drive from Saratoga Street to US 59/Main Street. This segment of Southview Drive was studied by engineering firm SEH prior to the new elementary school project being approved. The traffic review resulted in a recommendation to stripe this segment of street in a 3-lane configuration, with a continuous two-way left turn lane (TWLTL).

In its current configuration, North 7th Street is striped with a TWLTL. Staff is proposing to stripe with a TWLTL from the Diversion Channel bridge to a point north of the Flint Hills property. At this point we are proposing to transition to a two-way striping, including the white edge stripe. Due to the lack of left turning traffic between CR 33 and the Flint Hills property, staff does not believe the TWLTL is needed through this segment at this point in time.

To accommodate a TWLTL, staff is proposing to remove parking from the north side of the road and move the on-street bike trail to off-street shared use path on the north side between Saratoga Street and East Southview Court. The shared use path is being constructed by the contractor for the new elementary school project. Between East Southview Court and US 59/Main Street, the on-

street bike trail is proposed to co-exist with the TWLTL by removing parking from both sides of the street.

Schaefer called for discussion on the item. Anderson discussed background information on the agenda item. Discussion was held regarding several variations relating to striping and signage.

Southview Drive- Anderson and Dehn presented the proposed plans. Schaefer questioned refuge area and island. Anderson elaborated on the scenario regarding narrowing and pedestrian health and allowing for adequate plowing. Striping consistent to Southview Court. School putting shared use path on their side in lieu of painted on-street path. Striping accommodates businesses and return to typical striping at TH59. Potential grant application available for bike trail. Schaefer questioned turning onto Southview as well as turning on Main to Southview. Lozinski questioned traffic backing up at Saratoga. Dehn indicated once new elementary school is operational putting up candlesticks and analyze function of traffic flows and queues. Labat questioned bike lane and shared use path and jumping back and forth. Anderson indicated school did build this in to their project, and drive lane has ample room for back up left turn traffic.

LOZINSKI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY LABAT to recommend approval of Southview Drive as presented with three lanes, removal of parking, and no refuge island. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED 3:0.

Discussion by Labat regarding letters sent to property owners. Lozinski indicated more cost-effective to post on website/social media. Labat indicated all concerned with safety.

Saratoga Street- Anderson and Dehn presented the proposed plans. Labat commented regarding 3-way stop at the intersection of C Street and Saratoga. SEH analyzed this intersection in study of elementary school. Reviewed intersections indicated that intersection was a hot topic. Traffic study indicated stop sign warrant was not met as it did not happen more than once a day. Anderson proposed revisiting 3-way stop at the intersection after new school is operational. Schaefer pointed out and discussion was held regarding driveway on northwest side of intersection as not a straight jog across. Adequate widths must be maintained for snow removal operations. South of Southview remains as existing. Schaefer indicated he is acceptable to all as presented with the exception of problematic intersection of Saratoga and College Drive turning eastbound onto College Drive.

MOTION BY LOZINSKI, SECONDED BY LABAT to recommend approval of Saratoga Street as presented. VOTING IN FAVOR were Schaefer and Lozinski. VOTING AGAINST was Labat due to the exclusion of the 3-way stop at the intersection of C Street and Saratoga Street. MOTION PASSED 2:1.

North 7th Street- Anderson and Dehn presented the proposed plans. Schaefer questioned striping at Kossuth intersection. Lane configuration at bridge is tight and intersection is constrained. Leave white paint on bridge.

MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY LOZINSKI to approve North 7th Street as presented with exception of elimination of bike lane and paint extension south of bridge. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED 3:0.

Adjourn:

MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY LOZINSKI to adjourn the meeting. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED 3:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lona Rae Konold
Administrative Assistant