

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV. I.

From: Wayne D. Houle, PE, Director of Engineering

Action

Discussion

Date: April 16, 2013

Information

Subject: Traffic Safety Report Of March 13, 2013

Action Requested:

Review and approve the Traffic Safety Committee Report of March 13, 2013.

Information / Background:

The Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) reviewed the March 13, 2013, Traffic Safety Committee Report at their March 21 meeting. The ETC did have discussion regarding the new web page and did not recommend any changes to the report, see attached draft minutes.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Committee Report of March 13, 2013
Draft ETC Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2013

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: Byron Theis – Traffic Safety Coordinator

Action

Discussion

Date: March 14, 2013

Information

Subject: Traffic Safety Committee Report of March 13, 2013

Action Requested:

Review and recommend Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) Report of Wednesday March 13, 2013, be forwarded to City Council for approval.

Information / Background:

An overview of the comments from the Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) will be included in the staff report provided to Council for their April 16, 2013 meeting.

Attachments:

Traffic Safety Review for March 13, 2013.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

The Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) review of traffic safety matters occurred on March 13. The Director of Engineering, Public Works Director, Police Traffic Supervisor, the Assistant City Planner, the Sign Coordinator, and Traffic Safety Coordinator were in attendance for this meeting.

From these reviews, the recommendations below are provided. These recommendations will be presented at the March 21, Edina Transportation Commission and the April 16 City Council agenda.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval:

- I. Request approval of new webpage labeled, "Transportation" on the City of Edina website and updates to traffic control policies.

Staff created a new webpage to aid in directing residents with concerns involving traffic safety. The link can be found here:

http://edinamn.gov/index.php?section=transportation_test_page

One intent of the new webpage is to eliminate traffic control policies that are covered within the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MNMUTCD). The policies that would be removed are:

- Residential Stop Sign
- Multi-Way Stop Sign
- Yield Sign
- Speed Limit policies

Staff will use the MNMUTCD when analyzing traffic control devices. Policies that will remain the same are:

- Parking Restrictions
- Disabled Person Signs
- In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs
- Marked Pedestrian Crosswalks
- Alley Speed Bumps
- Temporary Speed Tables

The webpage also includes instructions for residents to request traffic control changes and an explanation of traffic management and control within the City of Edina.

Staff recommends approval of new Transportation webpage and updates to traffic control policies.

SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial:

At this time, there are no requests that require deferral to a later date.

SECTION C:

Requests that are deferred to a later date or referred to others.

At this time, there are no requests that require deferral to a later date.

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety issues handled.

1. Request for retiming of signal lights at the intersection of Vernon Avenue and Gus Young Lane. Requestor states that vehicles making a left do not have enough time and have to wait for two cycles of lights before clearing the intersection. This signal light is owned and maintained by Hennepin County. Requestor was forwarded to Hennepin County.
2. Request for retiming of signal lights at the intersection of eastbound TH 494 and France Avenue. Requestor states that vehicles attempting to make a left onto France Avenue wait an "unreasonable amount of time" before being cycled through. This signal is owned and maintained by MNDOT. Requestor was forwarded to MNDOT.
3. Call from a resident to update contact information for handicap sign.
4. Call from a resident concerned with speeds at the intersection of Code Avenue and Porter Lane. Resident states that vehicles are going "too fast" near pedestrians and travelling at a high rate of speed on Code Avenue. Resident was informed that speed counts will be conducted as soon as the weather permits the placement of traffic counters (in the spring) and the speed data will be forwarded to the Edina Police Department for enforcement.
5. City staff reviewed possible addition of a raised median on the west leg of the intersection of Valley View Road and Antrim Road.

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY ROOM
MARCH 21, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL Answering roll call was members Bass, Iyer, Janovy, LaForce, Nelson, Sierks, Spanhake, and Whited.

New member Dawn Spanhake was welcomed to the ETC by chair Nelson.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FEB. 21, 2013

The following corrections were made: page 4, 3rd paragraph, last sentence, delete 'Park' and replace with 'Art;' 7th paragraph, first sentence, delete 'Grove' and replace with 'Wood;' page 6, 4th paragraph, first sentence, add '...would fit with *the street car option that the Transportation Options Working Group reviewed but she would;*' page 6, 5th paragraph, delete '*... questions posed by residents and the Mayor answered 10'* and replace with '*...residents who wanted to ask questions and the Mayor was able to get to 10 during the time.*' **Motion was made by member Janovy and seconded by member LaForce to approve the revised minutes of Feb. 21, 2013. All voted aye. Motion carried.**

COMMUNITY COMMENT

REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Traffic Safety Committee Report of Mar. 13, 2013

Director Houle showed the new Transportation webpage which include information on the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC), Traffic Management and Traffic Control. He said the Traffic Management section shows the City's traffic policies and each policy links directly to the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD). Traffic signs that are not in the MMUTCD are listed under Traffic Control.

He also demonstrated the TSC map that shows all traffic safety requests and response. The map will allow residents to see if a safety request was made for their street and what the outcome was. He said the map is not user friendly and staff is working with LOGIS to make corrections. He said the goal is to have the map corrected and posted to the web by this summer.

Discussion included the following:

- Combine Traffic Management and Traffic Control.
- Add the house research memo that explains the speed limit law.
- Edits: reword first paragraph; delete or rephrase 3rd paragraph (be mindful of tone and choice of words – *must/need/negative/critical* – use neutral tones).
- Add the TSC form and link to the map.
- Do year-end report of traffic requests.

Section D: Director Houle said staff was prompted to consider modifying the intersection at Valley View Road and Antrim Road because the stop sign there is hit almost weekly. In reference to county road issues,

Director Houle will check with staff to see if they follow up with Hennepin County to see what action will be taken.

Motion was made by member Janovy and seconded by member Iyer to recommend that the City Council eliminate the traffic policies for residential stop signs, multi-way stop signs, speed limit, and yield signs.

Bike Standard Update

Director Houle said staff created these bike standards, similar to other standard plates that they use for uniformity. They are internal working documents and are not meant for the general public. Comments included the following:

Standard Plate #722 – eliminate the optional dotted lines.

Standard Plate #725 – remove bike boulevard sign.

Standard Plate #730 – eliminate the Bike Route sign.

Send standard plates to Minneapolis for review and feedback.

Motion was made by member Bass and seconded by member LaForce to approve the modified bike standard plates.

Updates

Student Members

Member Sierks asked about a constant yellow blinking traffic signal light that she saw in Eden Prairie. Director Houle said this is a new feature that is activated certain times of the day that allows drivers to turn if there are no on-coming traffic. He said they are looking at adding this feature here in Edina.

Bike Edina Task Force

Received minutes of Feb. 14, 2013. Member Janovy said a bike rodeo is taking place the 3rd Saturday of April at Cornelia Elementary School and volunteers are welcomed. She said they are discussing which bike routes to mark next. Chair Nelson mentioned Vernon Avenue and Director Houle said staff is working with Hennepin County to stripe a bike lane on Vernon Avenue when they do a mill and overlay in Sept/Oct.

Living Streets Working Group

Chair Nelson said he, member Janovy, Director Houle, Asst. City Manager Kurt and Mr. Thompson met today and they discussed two options for moving forward – 1) get approval for the entire plan; or 2) get approval for the policy now and implementation approval later on. He said they agreed on the latter so that they could use the policy to help guide the 2014 neighborhood reconstruction projects. He said the first step will be to circulate the policy between now and July 16 for review and feedback.

Director Houle said the new transportation planner should begin working by the end of April and this person will be working on this. He or she will also eventually become the liaison to the ETC. He said a joint session meeting with the City Council is scheduled for April 16, 5 p.m. to discuss the Living Streets Policy.

Transportation Options Working Group

Member Whited clarified that specific authorization is not needed for Prism to operate in Edina; that she is asking for funds to buy another bus; that Edina's annual contribution would be for operating costs and it would help to leverage other funding sources.