



REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL	Agenda Item Item No: <u>IV.G.</u>
From: Wayne D. Houle, PE City Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Date: February 21, 2012	
Subject: Traffic Safety Committee Report of January 4, 2012	

ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and approve the revised Traffic Safety Committee Report of January 4, 2012.

INFORMATION/BACKGROUND:

The Traffic Safety Committee Report (TSCR) was removed from the Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) consent agenda for further discussion. The ETC reviewed the TSCR and requested that Item B.1. be revised to include the address of Hennepin County Public Library – 5280 Grandview Square.

ATTACHMENTS:

Traffic Safety Staff Committee Report for January 4, 2012, Revised January 19, 2012.
Edina Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2012

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, January 4th, 2012
Revised 01/19/2012

The Committee review of traffic safety matters occurred on January 4th, 2012. The Committee is comprised of staff members included the City Engineer, Assistant City Engineer, Assistant City Planner, Police Traffic Supervisor, and Traffic Safety Coordinator.

From that review, the recommendations below are provided. On each of the items, persons involved have been contacted and the staff recommendation has been discussed with them. They were also informed that if they disagree with the recommendation or have additional facts to present, they can be included on the January 19, 2012, Edina Transportation Commission and then on to the February 6, 2012 Council Agenda. The Transportation Commission asked for clarification on Items B-1 and C-1.

SECTION A:

Requests on which the Committee recommends approval of request:

1. Request for “Do Not Enter” signs on Grandview Square.

This request is from a resident in the area of Grandview Square. The requestor claims that vehicles entering from parking areas around Grandview Square are making wrong turns on the one way streets. The requestor feels that placing the signs would help drivers recognize the correct direction of travel.

Grandview Square has two streets that are one way streets. There are a total of three entrances onto these streets. Two of the entrances are located at intersections. The third is mid-block on one of the streets. All of the entrances have a “One Way” sign to indicate direction of travel. The eastern most entrance also has a “Do Not Enter” sign located at the intersection of two streets.

After discussion, it was decided that the best option would be to place a “Do Not Enter” sign on the corner that does not have one. This would match the other intersection. Staff determined that the mid-block entrance does not need any more signage because the existing sign is highly visible. Any other signs placed near the mid-block entrance would be on private property.

Staff recommends the approval of placing a “Do Not Enter” sign at the southwest corner of Grandview Square.

SECTION B:

Requests on which the Committee recommends denial of request:

1. Request for a redesign of the **Grandview** Hennepin County Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, parking lot. **(Changed at request of Transportation Commission 1/19/12)**

This request comes from a resident who has concerns with the traveling area and parking lanes in the parking lot. The requestor claims that there is not enough space to safely travel when vehicles are parked. Requestor has asked that the parking spaces be angled and the direction of the parking lot be changed to a one way direction of travel.

There are no traffic counts or recorded accidents within the parking lot.

Edina does not own the parking lot that is adjacent to the library, but has an agreement with Hennepin County. Requestor has been informed of the agreement and staff directed him to the ongoing Grandview small Area Plan to see the proposed concepts for this area.

Staff recommends the denial of the request for a redesign of the Hennepin County Public Library parking lot.

2. Request for a “Stop Ahead” sign to be removed near the intersection of McCauley Trail and Timber Ridge.

This request is from the resident of along Timber Ridge. The requestor claims that due to the increased vegetation, the sign has become obscured. The requestor would like the sign removed so it would be easier to mow his lawn.

McCauley Trail is a Collector with a Mon-Fri. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 1634 vehicles and an 85th percentile speed of 34.3 MPH.

By City Ordinance, the minimum height that all streets must be clear is 16 feet. It appears that the vegetation is below 16 feet and needs to be trimmed back so the sign is visible. Staff has referred this issue to Public Works for review and if necessary, trim the vegetation.

Staff recommends the denial of the request for removal of the “Stop Ahead” sign near the intersection of McCauley Trail and Timber Ridge.

SECTION C:

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

1. Request for the speed limit on 51st Street West **south of Lunds** to be reduced from 50th Street West to France Avenue. Requestor lives on the street and has described the speed of vehicles traveling on the street, “Dangerous”. **(Changed at Transportation Committee request 1/19/12)**

51st Street West is classified as a collector and has a Mon-Fri. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 6678 vehicles with an 85th percentile speed of 28.2 MPH. There have been a total of six crashes in the area in the past 10 years. Four of the accidents were property damage only, while two were possible injury. The street is 46 feet in width and has both bulkhead curb and gutter and sidewalks of both sides. There is also no parking allowed on the street on both sides. Pedestrian crossings are marked with flashing semaphores and crosswalk markings.

The City of Edina is classified as an Urban district. In accordance with Minnesota State Statute 169.14, speed restrictions are established by State Statute and can only be modified by the Commissioner of Transportation on the basis of engineering and traffic investigation that indicates enhanced safety.

This request will be deferred until spring for additional data collection in the area.

2. Request for speed bumps on 55th Street West near the intersection of France Avenue. This request is from a resident on 55th Street West. They claim that there is an increased traffic volume and speed on the street. The requestor feels that speed bumps would be a solution to calm traffic.

55th Street West is a 27 foot wide bituminous City Street with no curb and gutter, no sidewalks, and no sight obstructions. There are no reported accidents from 2001 to 2010 on this part of 55th Street West.

This request will be deferred until spring for additional data collection in the area. The requestor was notified that the process for requesting traffic calming devices is the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP). A copy of this plan was emailed to the resident.

3. Request for a signal light at the intersection of 66th Street West and West Shore Drive. Requestor lives near the area and feels that there is an increase of traffic volume on 66th Street West. The requestor feels that a signal will help control traffic volume.

66th Street West is classified as a Collector and has one reported accident (collision with a Bicycle, 2003) between 2001 and 2010 at this intersection. It has a Mon-Fri Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 9539 vehicles with an 85th percentile speed of 38.7 MPH. West Shore Drive is classified as a City Street with a Mon-Fri Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 437 vehicles with an 85th percentile speed of 26.6 MPH.

This request is being deferred until updated traffic studies are conducted in the area. The increased traffic from the construction of 70th Street West in 2011 may have created elevated traffic volumes on 66th Street West. Staff is proposing to collect data in the spring of 2012.

SECTION D:

Other traffic safety issues handled.

No other traffic safety issues handled

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF EDINA, MINNESOTA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
January 19, 2012
6:00 P.M.**

ROLLCALL Answering roll call were Members Bass, Bonneville, Braden, Franzen, Janovy, Nelson, Schold Davis, and Thompson

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion was made by member Braden and seconded by member Nelson approving the meeting agenda. All voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2011

Chair Janovy noted that the bulleted list on page 2 could be confusing later on because it is missing context. After discussion, consensus was reached that the minutes should be done in a narrative style with context for better understanding. On page 2, last paragraph, delete "showing."

Motion was made by member Nelson and seconded by member Thompson to approve the amended minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2012

Page 3, 4th bulleted paragraph, the sentence in parenthesis was revised as follow: *(After additional design, staff expects each residential assessment for the sidewalk to be \$1700. NOTE: this information was determined after the meeting and included here for clarification).*

Motion was made by member Bonneville and seconded by member Franzen to approve the amended minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT OF JANUARY 4, 2012

Regarding Section B. I., member Nelson asked which library was being referred to. Assistant city engineer Sullivan said it was the Grandview Library and that the request was referred to the Planning Commission since this area is part of the Grandview Small Area Study.

Regarding Section B. 2., chair Janovy asked if the requestor is okay with the vegetation being removed since the request was to remove the "Stop Ahead" sign. Mr. Sullivan said the vegetation is a low hanging branch which is not allowed by City code; therefore, the best solution is to remove the branch.

Regarding Section C. I., chair Janovy asked if the request was for the section of W. 51st Street behind Lunds and Mr. Sullivan said yes.

COMMUNITY COMMENT None.

Chair Janovy asked Mr. Pedersen to explain Municipal Consent and the process. He said generally there are three criteria: 1) acquisition of ROW (none in this project); 2) modification of access (none in this project); and 3) additional capacity to the facility – building auxiliary lanes from northbound I-35 to TH-100. He said the process includes a public hearing and probably back to the ETC and then to Council.

Mr. Pedersen said the bridge will be widened to maintain the current 4-lane, add turn lanes, provide 6 ft shoulders on both sides, and 10 ft sidewalk on both sides of the bridge which can be used as bicycle facility later on (designated by the County as bike route). He said the bike lane will not be striped until there is an approaching bike lane.

Mr. Sullivan said it is expected this will go before Council in April and requested a response from the ETC to Council either by motion or comments in the minutes. Mr. Houle said with the TH-169 Municipal Consent, he does not believe a public hearing was held. He asked for confirmation that there is no cost sharing for Edina and Mr. Pedersen said only if pedestrian lighting is needed and he is not aware of any at this time.

Mr. Houle asked that staff be allowed to determine if a public hearing is necessary and who would be hosting it. The comments from the public hearing would be brought back to the ETC and the ETC would make a final recommendation to the Council. He said the timeline would be February to March and Municipal Consent in April.

Member Bass asked if there is a median island on the northern side of the intersection to provide pedestrian refuge and could this be added if not currently included. Mr. Pedersen said one on the northern side at Edinborough Way and a 6 ft median is proposed for the south side, which is not much refuge. Mr. Houle recommended taking a look at their design plan and considers incorporating a refuge and possibly a durable crosswalk. Mr. Houle said this may add minimal cost to the City.

France Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Re-scoping

In recapping events to date, Mr. Sullivan said the City received a federal grant of \$1M for a pedestrian bridge over France Avenue at 72nd Street. He said the Council and ETC has asked staff to take a step back to see if the funds could be applied to at-grade crossing and bicycle enhancements for pedestrians for the corridor. He said Mr. Chuck Rickart of WSB & Associates has been writing a re-scope of the project.

Mr. Rickart said WSB & Associates was retained to look at a scope change and the sunset date for the project. The sunset date for the funds is March 31, 2012. He said the Council would like to expand the scope to look at the entire corridor from Minnesota Drive to W. 66th Street. He explained that the funding application was in 2007 with approval in 2008, and the City set aside \$1M in the CIP for 2011 for the project. In addition to Council's and ETC's concerns with the overpass, a study of the corridor by Hennepin County, in conjunction with the City, in 2009, identified "other" improvements that could be implemented instead of an overpass.

Mr. Rickart said the current approved proposal is as follows: *Construction of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge over France Avenue in the vicinity of W. 72nd Street to provide a safe and efficient connection between the commercial, retail and offices east of France Avenue with the residential neighborhoods west of France Avenue; approximately 6000 ft. of 10 ft. wide bituminous trail, trail lighting, landscaping, benches and signing.*

He said they are seeking a sunset date extension and a scope change with the sunset date extension of one year being the more critical of the two. He said certain requirements such as approvals of environmental documents; right-of-way certificate; MnDOT plans; and letting the project within 90 days of the sunset date must be met for the extension to be granted. Additionally, they must show progress has been made on the project to date; give unique reasons why extension is needed; and demonstrate that the project can be completed within the year. He said the process includes a review and concurrence by MnDOT and then to the Met Council TAC Funding and Programming Committee for review and approval.

2012 ETC Priorities

Chair Janovy said the top three priorities as discussed previously are Living Streets, France Avenue/Greater Southdale Area Pedestrian/Transit/Bike Improvements, and Safe Routes to School – High School Traffic (Valley View between Antrim and Gleason). Other ongoing priorities are Capital Improvement Projects; Transportation Options Working Group, Review TSC Reports. A carry-over from 2011 is TLC Bike Boulevard and from 2010 is TIA/TDM/Zoning Code Update.

Additionally, chair Janovy said she will be meeting tomorrow morning with the chair of the Planning Commission, Director Teague, City Engineer Houle and Assistant City Engineer Sullivan to discuss Transportation Impact Analysis for redevelopment which the ETC passed on to the Planning Commission last year.

Motion was made by member Thompson and seconded by member Nelson to approve the 2012 Priorities. All voted aye. Motion carried.

ETC Meeting Schedule for 2012

Chair Janovy said they are to sign off on the meeting schedule and attendance would be based on this schedule, plus, there could be work sessions with the Council that would be required meetings. She said a Council member suggested that they meet the first Thursday of the month. It was noted that the current schedule is what everyone have planned for and new members being interviewed have been told this schedule. A 7 p.m. start time was suggested instead of 6 p.m. Mr. Sullivan said a change could create meeting room conflicts which could be worked out. Member Bass suggested making the decision in 2012 for implementation in 2013. Most commissioners were okay with the current meeting schedule but were also flexible to a new schedule. The October 18 meeting was rescheduled for October 25 because it conflicts with a school holiday.

Motion was made by member Nelson and seconded by member Franzen to approve the meeting schedule as the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., except for the October meeting which is scheduled for the 4th Thursday.

UPDATES

Student Members

Chair Janovy said student member Housh has resigned.

Transportation Options Working Group

Member Schold Davis said since this is her last ETC meeting she still needs to figure out how she will continue on as the chair of this group. She said there is a grassroots community group that began meeting before the Transportation Options Working Group and they are working on gathering information about the Independent Transportation Network and will be creating a proposal. The two groups will meet eventually.

Chair Janovy said she has not received the final bylaws but it allows member Schold Davis to be a co-chair with a current ETC member. Member Schold Davis said she would continue on as co-chair. The other co-chair will be selected at a future meeting.

Bike Edina Task Force Update

Chair Janovy said they had two guests from Do.Town at their meeting to talk about their purpose and how they can work with the BETF.

Grandview Small Area Study Update

Member Nelson said the group is meeting tonight to get final steering committee approval. He said residents can comment at www.edinacitizenengagement.org. Public comments will begin January 25 on the draft plan. The plan will be presented to the Planning Commission in February and April 14 to the Council.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION																	
NAME	TERM	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Work Session	Work Session	# of Mtgs.	Attendance %
Meetings/Work Sessions		1												(enter date)	(enter date)	1	
Bass, Katherine	2/1/2014	1														1	100%
Braden, Ann	2/1/2014	1														1	100%
Franzen, Nathan	2/1/2013	1														1	100%
Iyer, Surya	2/1/2015															0	#DIV/0!
Janow, Jennifer	2/1/2014	1														1	100%
LaForce, Tom	2/1/2015															0	#DIV/0!
Nelson, Paul	2/1/2013	1														1	100%
Schweiger, Steven	student															0	0%
Thompson, Michael	2/1/2013	1														1	100%
Whited, Courtney	2/1/2015															0	#DIV/0!
VACANT	student															0	0%

Liaisons: Report attendance monthly and attach this report to the Commission minutes for the packet. Do not enter numbers into the last two columns. Meeting numbers & attendance percentages will calculate automatically.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Regular Meeting w/Quorum	Counted as Meeting Held (ON MEETINGS' LINE) Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Attendance Recorded (ON MEMBER'S LINE) Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Regular Meeting w/o Quorum	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Joint Work Session	Type "1" under "Work Session" on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under "Work Session" for each attending member.
Rescheduled Meeting*	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for each attending member.
Cancelled Meeting	Type "1" under the month on the meetings' line.	Type "1" under the month for ALL members.
Special Meeting	There is no number typed on the meetings' line.	There is no number typed on the members' lines.

*A rescheduled meeting occurs when members are notified of a new meeting date/time at a prior meeting. If shorter notice is given, the previously-scheduled meeting is considered to have been cancelled and replaced with a special meeting.

NOTES: